

July 23 1996

Tuesday July 23 1996

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| Abu Dhabi D.50 | Hong Kong HK\$ 25 | Oman O.R. 1.00 |
| Australia A\$ 1.50 | Indonesia Rp 1,500 | Pakistan Rupee 100 |
| Austria S 13.76 | Japan Yen 136 | Portugal Escudo 200 |
| Belgium BF 90 | South Africa Rand 10 | Qatar Q.R. 1.00 |
| Canada C\$ 1.00 | Spain Ptas 166.64 | Romania Lei 100 |
| Denmark Dkr 136 | Sweden Krona 10 | Sri Lanka Rupee 200 |
| France FF 116.63 | Switzerland Franc 1.00 | Taiwan NT\$ 180 |
| Germany DM 1.93 | USA US\$ 2.75 | Zimbabwe Z\$ 70 |
| Greece Dr 340 | | |

The Guardian

INTERNATIONAL

NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR
46,612

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Julie Burchill on booze, Blair and boys



Queen of spleen
G2 and the weather

A 16-year-old writes...



Education

Major rules out concessions to sceptics □ Cabinet line dismissed as confusing and disappointing

Minister goes, Tories despair

Michael White
Political Editor

JOHNSON Major last night ruled out concessions on the Cabinet's European policy after the resignation of Treasury minister David Heathcoat-Amory prompted renewed fighting between rival factions within the Conservative Party.

Cabinet loyalists were in despair and many Tory MPs were puzzled that a fastidious colleague, who had managed to remain in the key post of deputy chief whip during the bloody passage of the Maastricht Treaty, should jump

ship now and blight the Government's latest hope of recovery by calling for outright rejection of British involvement in a single EU currency.

Euro-sceptics were delighted. "In the short term, the Cabinet will dig in," said one. "In the medium term this will help us win on this issue." And speculation persisted, despite Downing Street denials, that other restless ministers might leave the government as it enters its last, desperate fight for survival.

Mr Major will conduct a limited reshuffle today in the wake of the resignation.

Despite Mr Heathcoat-Amory protesting that he had

planned to go quietly in the reshuffle, his resignation has been dragged out over four days since it was first leaked. Last night he twisted the knife with a resignation letter that dismissed the Cabinet's carefully-crafted compromises on the single currency as useless in the face of a "relentless drive" towards political union.

"This policy is not working," he told Mr Major. In the crucial paragraph of his letter he pointedly described the Cabinet's agreement to avoid ruling out membership of a Euro-currency bloc during the 1997-2002 parliament as "an equivocation confusing to the public and disappointing to most of our supporters".

This is the nub of the struggle slowly tearing the Tories apart. Sceptics believe that ruling out a single currency before 2002 would unite their party and help Mr Major beat Tony Blair. Loyalists believe in keeping options open — and in not appeasing Thatcherite fundamentalists.

"If people want to give up the pound they should vote Liberal Democrat or Labour," Mr Heathcoat-Amory said on Channel 4 News. "We should give them a big simple choice." He added that voters were "ahead of us" in rejecting the single currency. That is an article of faith among sceptics.

The Labour MP, Dennis MacShane, last night accused

Mr Heathcoat-Amory of hypocrisy in accepting large sums of EU agricultural subsidy for his farms.

Mr Heathcoat-Amory said in his letter to Mr Major: "When something is clearly against the national interest, it is our job as the party of the national interest to make our position clear — and resist it now."

He told the Prime Minister he would campaign in favour of a looser, free trade relationship with the EU, starting this morning with a pamphlet.

In his reply Mr Major conceded: "I understand the passions aroused by this issue," but added that it was in Britain's interest to stay at the

heart of the debates on planning a single currency, to which France and Germany are committed by 1999.

If a future cabinet does decide to enter, there would be a referendum, he reminded the MP after telling him: "I believe it is a mistake" to quit.

As Paymaster-General and former minister for Europe, Mr Heathcoat-Amory had some influence on European issues, said some Tory MPs sorry to see him resign.

But the shadow chancellor will face his own critics when leaving sceptics launch a pamphlet called *The Single Currency — Axing Labour's Programme*.

TUC presses Bank on EMU, page 11

tion "decadent" so close to an election.

As John Redwood and other sceptics rejoiced, the deputy prime minister, Michael Heseltine told ITN he was "sorry" about the resignation. Labour was delighted at fresh Tory disarray. "Kenneth Clarke is increasingly isolated. He can't even persuade his own ministers to support him," Gordon Brown declared.

But the shadow chancellor will face his own critics when leaving sceptics launch a pamphlet called *The Single Currency — Axing Labour's Programme*.



David Heathcoat-Amory... 'policy not working'



A technician removes embryos from frozen storage, where they can be kept for up to 10 years with parents' permission. PHOTOGRAPH: HANK MORGAN

Frozen human embryos to be destroyed

Parents cannot be found as 4,000 fertilised eggs face deadline

Chris Millar
Medical Correspondent

UP TO 4,000 frozen embryos from about 800 couples are to be destroyed at the end of the month because the parents cannot be contacted, have shown no interest in the fate of their potential children or do not want them any more.

The destruction has to take place because Parliament said in 1990 that, from August 1991, embryos could only be frozen for five years, meaning the deadline is up on July 31. In May the regulations were changed so that embryos could be stored for 10 years, but only if the parents were contacted and gave their permission.

Ruth Deech, chairman of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority, which regulates clinics holding the embryos, said yesterday: "The regulations allow many patients to extend their consent to 10 years or more in

some exceptional cases. But if that consent cannot be obtained the storage has to cease, which means, sadly, allowing a number of embryos to perish.

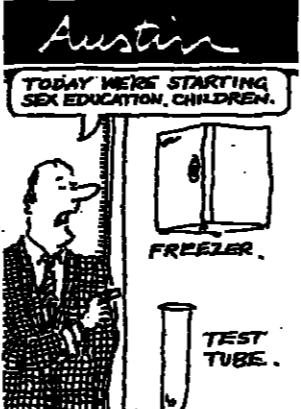
"But if you think through the other options — of using them without the consent of the individuals, or of keeping them stored indefinitely — those options are far less acceptable."

"Some have suggested that these embryos should be donated or 'adopted'. This would be wrong both legally and ethically. Consent is crucial and, if consent cannot be obtained, storage must cease allowing the embryos to perish."

Professor Ian Craft, of the London Gynaecology and Fertility Centre, said: "These embryos were created to bring children into the world so we feel great sadness that they will have to be destroyed, but it would not be right to give them away or use them for research without the consent of the parents."

Embryo storage regulations

| | |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| UK | Ten years with parental consent |
| USA/Canada | No regulation |
| Germany | Banned |
| France | Five years max. |
| Netherlands | No regulation |
| Belgium | No regulation |
| W. Australia | Three years max. |



Dr Peter Brinsden, the medical director of Bourn Hall, Cambridge, which pioneered in vitro fertilisation treatment, said the centre had 285 couples it could not contact covering 904 embryos, out of 10,000 in storage. Half the missing couples lived abroad.

"It would be completely unethical to use the embryos for purposes other than originally intended by the couples."

A spokesman for Issue, the

said about 9,000 embryos faced the five-year deadline. Of these, 2,100 embryos from 850 couples would perish because it had not been possible to contact the parents; another 1,200 embryos from 260 couples would be destroyed because the parents had been contacted but did not reply.

About 10 per cent of the parents that have been successfully contacted by clinics have said they no longer want their embryos kept in storage, meaning the final number to be destroyed is likely to be around 4,000.

The majority of frozen embryos are just four cells, and in some cases only two — so are smaller than a pinhead. They will be brought out of frozen storage, allowed to reach room temperature and then destroyed with a drop of water or alcohol.

Parents who have been contacted and want their embryos destroyed can be present if they wish.

Mrs Deech said that since storage began in the late 1980s, about 300,000 embryos had been created, so those being destroyed represented a small proportion of the total.

Sheep organ ban in new BSE scare

John Palmer in Brussels

THE European Commission last night signalled a sweeping ban throughout Europe on the use of sheep and goat organs in the food chain after new scientific evidence indicated that BSE is being transmitted to sheep.

EU farm ministers, meeting in Brussels last night, were desperately playing down fears of a new food crisis. They described the latest proposals, unveiled to them by Agriculture Commissioner Franz Fischler, as precautionary. But the move caught them by surprise.

Officials privately expressed worries that a beef-style consumer panic, which devastated the industry, could be triggered by suggesting the scale of the BSE problem was greater than thought. There were predictions last night of a one-third fall in sales of sheep products.

Britain and France, the main European producers, would be hit hardest. But lamb is not subject to the new proposals.

Scientists previously accepted there was a link be-

tween the scrapie disease in sheep and BSE in cattle. But they now concede what they thought was scrapie might instead be BSE. One of their difficulties is the similarities of the diseases.

Whereas it was assumed cattle picked up BSE through meat and bone meal containing sheep scrapie, it may now be that sheep have instead contracted BSE from feed contaminated with diseased cattle. Farmers were banned from giving meat and bone meal to cattle or sheep seven years ago, although it could still be given to pigs and poultry until last year.

Under the new controls, to go before the EU veterinary group next month for approval, sheep and goats spleens and central organ tissues will be banned from food and feed use. The group will consider cage limits.

Announcing the new measures in Brussels, Mr Fischler said latest research showed that BSE is more widespread

in the body of sheep than of cattle, going beyond the nervous system.

"I believe it is right and proper to take another step towards protecting human and animal health. We must avoid a repetition of the events which led to the BSE epidemic in the UK."

"We also need to act positively to restore public confidence in beef and perhaps to avoid loss of confidence in other meat. It is essential that all food and feed is free from potentially infected material."

The French government last month announced a ban on the use of sheep brains in food manufacture. But Mr Fischler said the EU had to go further. "The true BSE and scrapie situation in all member states is not fully clear."

A spokesman for the National Farmers' Union urged caution. "People need to look at the science, not the emotion. If Mr Fischler says concerns, we would want to discuss them with him."

Inside
Police are trying to work out how a family of five died at their home in Southampton, amid suggestions there was a suicide pact.

4

Britain
More than 7,000 Rwandan Hutus have been expelled from refugee camps in Burundi in four days, and there is no sign of a let-up.

7

World News
As the RUC today calls for a more positive approach to monetary union, 50 Labour MPs will oppose it in a new pamphlet.

11

Finance
Steve Redgrave has a walk-out from the Olympic village in Atlanta, frustrated about overcrowding and problems with athletes' transport.

16

Sport
Comment and Letters 8
Obituaries 10
G2
Quick Crossword 15
Radio, TV and Weather 16

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2 NEWS

Sketch

Prime deputy going cheap



Simon Hoggart

A MOOD of exhilarated anticipation gripped us as we trooped into the Press Gallery at 2.30 yesterday afternoon for Deputy Prime Minister's Question Time. Journalists love a freebie, and this was the ultimate junket—a chance to hear Michael Heseltine discuss government policy without spending a penny of our own money.

We now know that members of the Premier Club spend up to £100,000 for the privilege. For us this would be the equivalent of sitting in the gallery, folding 500 notes into paper planes, and letting them glide down for ministers to grab—a piece of conspicuous profligacy beyond even the Guardian's reach.

What seems to have happened is that this government has turned itself into the equivalent of a chain letter—the one which threatens you with tragedy if you don't send money to the top address on the list. ("A man in Bolton broke the chain. His family were killed when their car was hit by a train carrying Japanese nuclear waste.")

The way it works is that businesses send money to the "club", which they can hide in the accounts. Donors can then find themselves short-listed for future sales of government assets.

The amount is knocked off taxes to improve the Government's poll ratings. In this way the Tory party is richer, the company is much richer, and we are richer because we have been persuaded with our money to return the Conservatives to power.

Of course, as with any other chain letter, this doesn't work. It's what the statisticians call a "zero-sum game". We can't all get richer just by swapping money with each other. But so what? For a government devoted to the sole cause of getting itself re-elected, it's the perfect con.

We've already got the threats. "A worker in York broke the chain by voting Labour, and lost his job, thanks to the Social Chapter. A Bideford company failed to send £50,000 to the Conservatives and went bankrupt. Send a cheque now! You will receive £250."

Mr Heseltine said virtually nothing about this scandal, and simply accused Labour of being in the pocket of the trade unions. More today from John Major, I expect.

Further anonymous letters arrive concerning Michael Fabricant, currently parliamentary private secretary to a junior Treasury minister, but my choice for the new Paymaster General. One informs me that he used to be "deeply hurt by accusations that his hair was not all God's work... apparently no one had ever accused him of wearing a wig."

"He planned to parachute out of an airplane without a helmet, to show that his hair would stay in place. Horrified party members talked him out of it"—which leaves us asking, why?

I have long suspected that my anonymous correspondents are all Dr Fabricant himself. The case is, I think, clinched by the end of this letter: "Incidentally, despite his faults, Mr F is also an interesting, intelligent and quite possibly fairly lonely character—but you don't want to hear that, do you?"

No, I don't. But what Dr Fabricant must know is that what I think doesn't matter. Yesterday he asked a ludicrous question, claiming that the fact that Hansard was now available on the Internet demonstrated that the Tories were committed to open government.

Hold it! A fax has just arrived. It's from Michael Fabricant. He is to ask the first question to the Prime Minister today, concerning the effect of government policies on the people of Lichfield. We're on tenterhooks wondering whether these will prove to have been beneficial—or possibly not.

And tomorrow he introduces the Union Flag Bill to encourage people to reject Labour devolution policies. "Fabricant—Lust for Glory" continues unthreatened, unharmed and unabashed.



Paddy Wilson, murdered with his girlfriend Irene Andrews, sought to cross the sectarian divide. Their killer John White (right) claims 'I have committed myself to peaceful and democratic ways'



MAIN PHOTOGRAPH: SEAN SMITH



Unforgiven: man who now enters No. 10

'While he faces John Major will he reflect on the screams of his victims?' Peter Hetherington on the case of John White



Lord Fitt... I find this too hard to take

THEY had just enjoyed ham sandwiches and tea after a day campaigning in Belfast's old Dock constituency. Paddy Wilson, a senator in the old Stormont, then went to deliver election leaflets to the Irish News, Northern Ireland's nationalist daily.

Gerry Fitt remembers the time with precision: 6.30pm, June 26 1978. That was the last he saw of him. Son after midnight he got the call from the RUC. His lifelong friend had been murdered with a degree of brutality that shocked a battle-hardened province. Could he come and identify the body?

"It was a terrible sight," recalled Lord Fitt, former leader of the Social Democratic and Labour Party, which is linked to the UVF.

Lord Fitt sent a letter of protest to the Prime Minister. Others, such as Paddy Devlin, thought it was probably time not to linger on the past. "You should speak to everybody if it means peace," he said.

brutal murders they had ever come across. It was a terribly traumatic time. He was murdered just after he left me and you never forget that."

Mr White yesterday appealed for people to recognise that he had "turned over a new leaf". But Lord Fitt thundered: "I have never forgiven him. He admitted it."

"Now while he's been facing John Major over the table in Downing Street, will he reflect on the screams of his victims that he brutally stabbed to death in 1978? Look at the reason why he got into those talks with Major—there's a direct route from the murder to Downing Street. I find this too hard to take."

Last week Wilson's widow, Theresa, who left for England after the murders, was buried in Leicester. The Fitt family was told of the death by the couple's son, Paul.

Lord Fitt said: "I feel I owe it to her to expose what is happening. We have been crying at the thought of it all. It has brought everything back—something that will stay with me for all my life."

Mr White wanted to avoid the controversy before he entered No. 10. "Anyone who knows me realises that for quite some time I have committed myself to peaceful and democratic ways."

I am here to ensure that incidents like I was involved in will not happen again

Peter Hetherington in Belfast and Michael White

JOHN Major's struggle to keep the Northern Ireland peace process alive last night led him to shake hands with a convicted loyalist murderer, as a signal to paramilitary forces on both sides that an unequivocal commitment to non-violence could lead rapidly to direct political influence.

John White emerged from 70 minutes of talks with the Prime Minister in Downing Street to emphasise his own commitment to the pursuit of peace. "I am here to ensure that incidents like I was involved in will not happen again and I have committed myself to the peace process like many other ex-prisoners," he told reporters, alongside Gary McMichael, both representing the Ulster Democratic Party.

Representatives of the Progressive Unionist Party were David Irvine, who served 11 years for possessing explosives, and Hugh Smyth.

The meeting was widely seen as an attempt to keep the loyalist paramilitaries' ceasefire intact amid growing strains following the recent violence.

Though no details were offered, Downing Street strongly defended Mr Major's decision to hold face-to-face talks with the group of loyalists—in the face of Unionist criticisms.

Breaking a policy of avoiding personal contact with organisations once linked to terrorism, No 10 sources said Mr White, now UDP prisoner spokesman, had been subject to the law of the UK and had served a sentence.

As a member of the recently-elected Northern Ireland Forum, he had renounced violence and signed up to the principles of the former US Senator, George Mitchell, who is chairing all-party talks.

Mr McMichael was more explicit in suggesting that Sinn Féin could expect a similar "reward" if they could persuade the IRA to call a fresh ceasefire.

Mr White said the meeting reflected the loyalists' greater degree of commitment to the peace process.

Review

Fairy tale lacking danger and irony

Andrew Clements

The Silver Lake Royal Albert Hall/Radio 3

SOME works are impossible to detach from the historical context in which they came about, and Der Silbersee, The Silver Lake, is certainly one of them.

Georg Kaiser and Kurt Weill's Winter Fairy Tale was premiered in Germany in February 1933, a few weeks after Hitler had become Chancellor and eight days before the Reichstag was burnt to the ground. And within five weeks, Weill had fled Germany.

Since then, The Silver Lake has been one of the most neglected of all Weill's German scores. The first British performance of the complete work had to wait until 1987, and last night's concert performance at the Proms, with the London Sinfonietta ably conducted by Markus Stenz, was only the third time the music has been heard here.

Its neglect can only be explained on purely practical grounds. As this revival demonstrated, the 16 musical numbers—choruses and ensembles, solos and instrumental interludes—are top-drawer Weill, most of them as good as anything to be found in his more celebrated collaborations with Bertolt Brecht.

But The Silver Lake is hard to pin down dramatically. It is more than just a play with music, though in the original version roughly three hours of Kaiser's text is married to just over an hour of Weill's score. A closer comparison would be with the German

Singspiel tradition, of which The Magic Flute is the most famous example.

Like Mozart's masterpiece, it was written for a cast of singing actors. For a cohesive and experienced troupe of the kind found in every self-respecting theatre in the Weimar Republic, performers who could move from speech to song and back again with total fluency.

That kind of ensemble hardly exists today, and adjustments need to be made. This time the singing and the acting were divided. Kaiser's text had been boiled down by Jeremy Sams to a witty linking narration and to translations of extracts from the original smartly delivered by a cast of three, while the vocal numbers were allotted to a separate roster of singers.

It was a useful, pragmatic compromise, though one that altered the balance between words and music in a significant way. Kaiser and Weill were careful to integrate their contributions, so that the texture of the original conception, a sense of a witty linking narration and to translations of extracts from the original smartly delivered by a cast of three, while the vocal numbers were allotted to a separate roster of singers.

There is a tough satirical edge to this strange and rather perplexing fairy tale, and satire in Germany in 1933 was a dangerous art. Not enough of that danger and irony really came through.

This review appeared in later editions yesterday.

Microsoft tightens grip

continued from page 1 spent last year touring Africa, or give them the latest information on what caused the recent Ariane 5 accident.

"File" will now be called a "page", and it may well contain audio recordings and video clips of the holiday, as well as e-mail addresses of the best travel agents, hotels, cafes, bars and bordellos—all the features now commonplace on the World-Wide Web, the friendly face of the Internet.

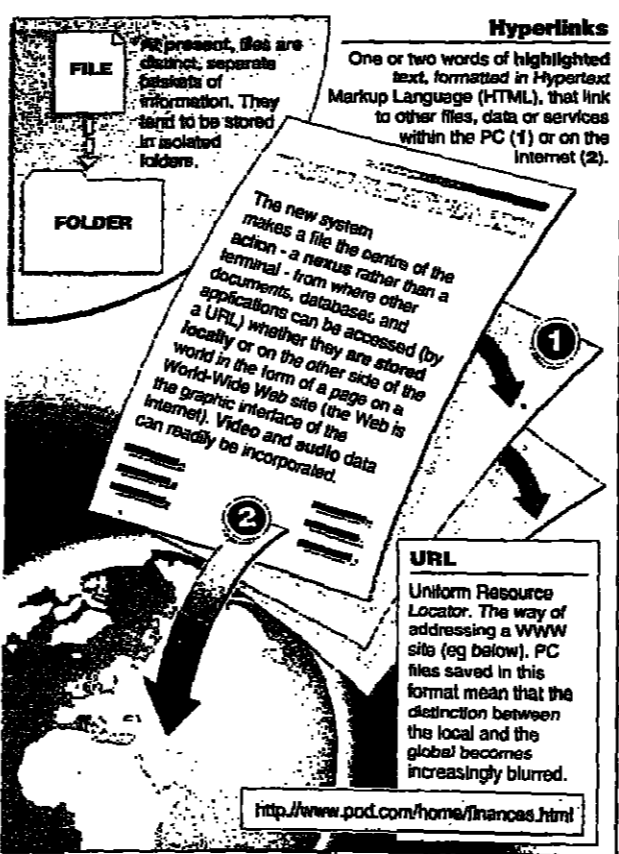
Microsoft has been gathering steam to make its presence felt ever since it decided eight months ago that the Internet was here to stay.

This latest development, a clever piece of software that brings the benefits of the Net into the home, is perhaps the most remarkable.

What we're doing is integrating the best of the PC with the best of the Web," Martin Gregory, Microsoft UK's Internet software manager, said yesterday. "So you'll be able to do things like click forward and back buttons to move between programs on your PC in the same way that you move between Web sites."

While the software tightens Microsoft's squeeze on the Internet, the good news is that it does not necessarily make existing hardware redundant.

However, users do have to commit themselves to Microsoft, and its range of products. The latest software is due to be part and parcel of the replacement for Windows 95, the Microsoft operating system launched last year and designed to make computing with a PC—from IBM or one of its clones—as easy as it is on an Apple Mac.



by enthusiasts. Until Nashville is released, Microsoft will incorporate this latest development in the fourth version of its Internet Explorer browser, software designed for surfing the net.

The company plans to begin tests of the next version over the next few months.

The software is due to be available free to surfers able to download programs from the Microsoft Web site. Microsoft is trying hard to gain ground on its American arch rival in the market for browser software, Netscape. About 80 per cent of surfers currently use Netscape Navigator. But Microsoft's latest technology may have given it the edge.

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Europe court to rule in test case on gay rights at work

Sarah Boseley

THE case of a lesbian British Rail employee, Lisa Grant, who was refused a concessionary travel permit for her partner, has been referred to the European Court of Justice for a ruling that could prove a watershed for gay rights.

heard the case in May, want the court to answer is whether "discrimination based on sex" includes discrimination based on sexual orientation.

Ms Grant had applied to BR in Southampton where she worked for a concessionary travel pass for her partner Jill Parcey, but was refused on the basis that the privilege was accorded only to opposite-sex partners.

Vertical text on the right edge of the page, including 'Former Pan', 'There's nine of the there night to you', and other fragments.

Leftwing challenge to leadership's cabinet slate boosted by surprise entrants, but some MPs accuse whips of strong-arm dissuasion

Seven defy Blair's shadow poll edict

Rebecca Smithers
Political Correspondent

S EVEN Labour MPs last night broke ranks to put forward their names for tomorrow's shadow cabinet elections, in addition to the official leadership "slate" — the current 19-strong line-up which Tony Blair wants to retain as his "cabinet in waiting".

Despite the disciplinary grip exercised by Mr Blair and his whips to maintain party unity, three surprise entrants had put their names forward when nominations closed last night.

They are leftwing backbenchers Jeremy Corbyn (Islington North), Dennis Canavan (Falkirk West) and Lynne Jones (Birmingham Selly Oak). As expected, fellow leftwingers Tony Banks (Newham NW), Paul Flynn (Newport West) and Chris Mullin (Sunderland South) also put their names forward.

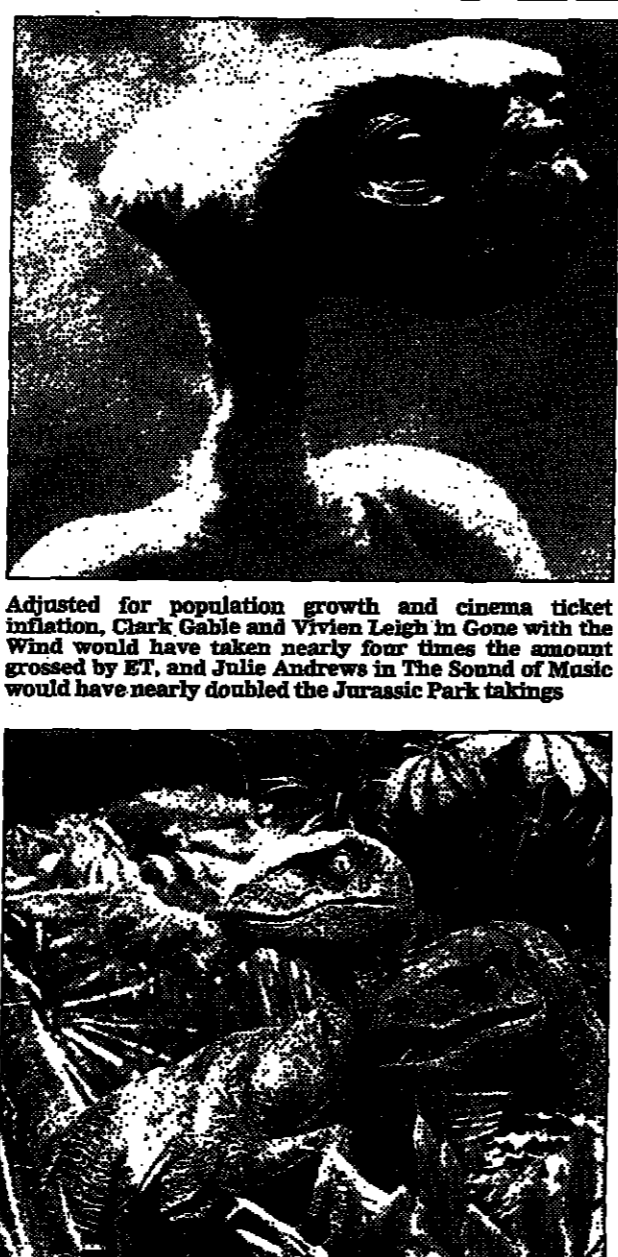
The two mainstream challengers are Ann Clywd, who is likely to attract votes from Welsh members and the left wing, and in protest at Mr Blair's shadow health secretary, Harriet Harman, who sent her child to a selective grammar school, and Jack Cunningham, who failed to get elected last time but was nevertheless appointed as heritage spokesman.

The leadership wants to retain the existing team, with Mr Cunningham replacing overseas development spokeswoman Joan Lester, who has decided not stand for re-election on medical grounds.

Nominations closed after a weekend of what some Labour MPs yesterday complained of as "strong-arming". All Labour's 90 remaining frontbench spokesmen and women decided not to stand, while dissidents such as leftwinger Irene Adams were dissuaded at the last minute. She has yet to be re-elected as candidate in Paisley North and MPs hinted at discreet pressure from her local party.

The real tests will be the extent to which Ms Clywd splits Ms Harman's vote, and to which MPs ignore the whips' advice to stick to the slate.

Last night leftwingers claimed the leadership had "the contest in the bag" because at least 35 MPs have registered proxy votes in order to leave Westminster before the recess tomorrow. Conspiracy theorists believe the party whips will cast them *en bloc* for the Blair slate, something the whips deny. An MP can cast one proxy vote and there are only six whips.



Adjusted for population growth and cinema ticket inflation, Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in *Gone with the Wind* would have taken nearly four times the amount grossed by *ET*, and Julie Andrews in *The Sound of Music* would have nearly doubled the *Jurassic Park* takings

BBC axes 60 monitoring station jobs

Andrew Gull
Media Correspondent

SIXTY jobs were axed yesterday at the BBC's monitoring station at Caversham in a fresh blow to the international prestige of the World Service.

about 12 per cent of the 500 workforce. BBC Monitoring supplies information gathered from TV, radio, and news agencies in 140 countries and 70 languages.



Voice of sanity in Rwanda, page 5; Letters, page 8

Frankly, everyone gave a damn

Dan Glaister
on the biggest movie earners of all time

| Rank | Movie | Year |
|------|-----------------------------|------|
| 1 | <i>Gone with the Wind</i> | 1939 |
| 2 | <i>The Ten Commandments</i> | 1956 |
| 3 | <i>The Ten Commandments</i> | 1956 |
| 4 | <i>Ben Hur</i> | 1959 |
| 5 | <i>ET</i> | 1982 |
| 6 | <i>The Exorcist</i> | 1973 |
| 7 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 8 | <i>The Exorcist</i> | 1973 |
| 9 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 10 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 11 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 12 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 13 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 14 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 15 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 16 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 17 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 18 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 19 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |
| 20 | <i>Deliverance</i> | 1972 |

The list includes several other surprises: the 1956 film *Around the World in 80 Days* is at number 10, with takings of £361 million at today's prices, while *The Exorcist*, the most controversial film on the list, at number nine with takings of £263 million, is sure to turn heads.

G O HOME, ET. Stay in the water. *Jaws*. The most successful movie of all time is *Gone With the Wind*. As the latest Hollywood blockbuster, the all-time-greatest caper *Independence Day* breaks records with box-office takings of almost £128 million in two weeks, a survey in New York magazine shows that, at today's prices and with today's potential audience, *Gone With the Wind* would have taken £1,659 million.

price, and the available US audience, having doubled, most top film lists feature the last three decades. But by adjusting for population growth and inflation these figures show that the guru of the blockbuster is not Steven Spielberg or George Lucas, but David O. Selznick, producer of *Gone With the Wind*.

Under Mr Jackson, BBC2 has been the only channel to increase its audience share. In 1995 this grew from 10.3 per cent to 11.2 per cent, pushing it ahead of Channel 4 for the first time in three years.

Former Panorama chief takes charge of resurgent BBC2

Andrew Gull
Media Correspondent

F ORMER Panorama editor — in charge when John Birt, the director general, pulled a critical economic report on the eve of the election — was yesterday appointed controller of BBC2.

head of factual programmes, will take over the channel's £226 million annual budget in the autumn. He succeeds Michael Jackson, who has been named director of television and controller of BBC1.

Mr Thompson, aged 38, joined the BBC in 1979 as a production trainee, working as a researcher on the religious programme *Everyman*.

Under Mr Jackson, BBC2 has been the only channel to increase its audience share. In 1995 this grew from 10.3 per cent to 11.2 per cent, pushing it ahead of Channel 4 for the first time in three years.

There was a time, from the late eighties to the early nineties, when London belonged to me. I was the Queen of the Groucho Club, and I totally enjoyed it. But now there's a kickback from this. There are only so many nights you can sit in the Groucho Club doing cocaine up to your eyeballs, hanging out with Toof Londray.

G2 cover story

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4 BRITAIN

News in brief

Blind beggar jailed for murder

A BLIND beggar was jailed for life at Bristol crown court yesterday for beating a man to death. The jury unanimously found street busker David Workman, aged 20, guilty of the murder of Najinder Singh Bhari, 48, at Singh's flat in Gloucester in April.

Workman, a guitar player, showed no emotion as the life sentence was passed by Mr Justice Moses on the sixth day of his trial. Workman, blind since birth, had denied murdering Mr Singh.

The jury was told a friend had taken him to Singh's flat after he had been drinking and taking drugs. He immediately began punching and kicking Mr Singh, the Crown claimed. In a taped 999 call to police he admitted the killing, claiming he attacked Singh because he believed he had molested a schoolboy. Home Office pathologist Bernard Knight said Singh probably died from a blow to his adam's apple. Workman claimed he had not intended to cause serious injury.

Benefits workers' strike vote

BENEFITS Agency workers have voted to strike in a dispute over safety in their offices. Threatening disruption to the payment of benefits, members of the Civil and Public Services Association voted by 5,449 to 4,334 to take industrial action in protest at plans to pay the Jobseeker's Allowance from unscreened offices.

Union leaders must now decide their next move. Christine Kirk, the union's Benefits Agency secretary, said the vote reflected the anger of workers, even though the ballot turnout was only about 40 per cent.

"The department is saying there is nothing to worry about, but our members obviously don't agree. We have tried everything to resolve this dispute, including a direct appeal to the Secretary of State. A strike ballot was the last resort and I believe a strike is inevitable."

Industrial action would disrupt the payment of income support, unemployment benefit, social fund and other benefits at offices throughout England, Wales and Scotland.

Protesters board submarine

MINISTRY OF Defence police were investigating last night how two women peace protesters managed to board a nuclear-powered submarine berthed in a Royal Navy base.

The women used scuba gear and the cover of darkness to enter the Clyde Submarine Base, home of Britain's Trident nuclear deterrent, early yesterday, and climbed the gangplank of HMS Scorpene, a hunter-killer submarine.

Friends claimed they even had time to make a phone call from the submarine before being arrested by navy personnel and handed over to MoD police. They were charged under local bylaws and with committing a breach of the peace, then released.

£100,000 for pregnancy

A WOMAN who became pregnant after a sterilisation operation yesterday accepted £100,000 from the health authority responsible for the operation.

Zoe Bell, aged 39, of Stock, Essex, had decided that two children were enough after the difficult birth of her second son in 1987. Surgeons at Basildon hospital, Essex, cut her fallopian tubes in September 1989, but the following year she conceived again and her third son, Reace, was born in February 1991.

Mrs Bell sued Basildon and Thurrock health authority (now South Essex), alleging she was not warned that fallopian tubes might "reconnect". Her compensation claim included the expense of having an unplanned baby and loss of earnings - she had intended to return to work soon after her second son was born.

The High Court heard that she and her husband, John, had decided to accept an offer of £100,000, plus legal costs, from the health authority, which admitted liability.

Murder delayed

MURDER ONE fans will have to wait to find out how the 23-part American courtroom drama ends. Viewers inundated BBC2 with complaints after it postponed the ending until after the Olympics. Sky One offered to show the last three episodes, but was blocked yesterday when BBC lawyers took out an injunction.

Apology

ON MAY 28, 1996, the Guardian published an article about the English football team's recent tour of the Far East in which they included references to both Jarvis Astarie and Mark McCormack. The article suggested untruthfully that the tour was arranged less for the FA's financial gain than for the long-term benefit of individuals such as Mr Astarie and Mr McCormack acting in association with each other. Yesterday in court, Martin Davies, representing the Guardian, apologised to both Mr Astarie and Mr McCormack, who were represented by David Gore and Lee Newman respectively. The Guardian also agreed to pay undisclosed damages and costs.



Mahendra Karia (top left) who worked in a family-run shop, daughter Chandni, aged four, and Majuri Karia with two-year-old Shrina. They are all believed to have died from injections

Family of five 'poisoned in suicide pact'

Toxicology test to be carried out after police find syringe at home

Ruaridh Nicoll

POLICE were last night investigating the possibility of a suicide pact after a post mortem revealed poison in the bodies of a family of five found dead in their Southampton living room yesterday.

Hampshire police suspect that Mahendra Karia, aged 44, and his wife Majuri, aged 39,

took the lives of their three children, Chandni, aged five, Shrina, aged two, and four-month-old Bijal before killing themselves.

A police spokesman confirmed that a syringe was found at the house and police believe all five members of the family died from lethal injections. Further toxicology tests are being carried out.

Mr Karia, who worked at a family-run newsagent's and grocer's shop in Portsmouth,

could climb over the fence, so we got him a chair."

The brother came back after a few minutes and said he could not get in and the Tudors went back to bed. A few moments later they heard the brother, who had managed to get in the front, start screaming.

He had discovered the bodies lying together in the living room.

The family had been last seen on Friday when Ms Tudor saw Mrs Karia hanging her washing in the back garden.

Zamier Hussein who arrived in the street about one

Costa tourists ignore Whitehall terror warning

Sarah Boseley

BRITONS heading for Spain should bear in mind the upsurge of terrorist activity on the Costa Dorada, the Foreign Office advised yesterday - while stopping short of telling them to stay away.

Around 10 million Britons are expected to visit Spain this year and mass cancellations would seriously affect

the tourist industry there, as well as tour operators who would be forced to pay compensation if the FO instructed trippers to stay away.

So far, despite Saturday's bomb at Reus airport, it seems few holidaymakers have been put off.

Keith Betton, head of corporate affairs at the Association of British Travel Agents, said: "People are not cancelling holidays."

"We have talked to customers who have phoned us and let them make their own decisions. If they choose not to go they are likely to lose the money they have paid because there is no legal obligation on tour operators to pay

compensation if the Foreign Office says it's safe."

In its travel advice issued last night, the Foreign Office acknowledged that ETA, the Basque separatist movement, appeared to have resumed last summer's campaign of setting off small bombs in tourist resorts.

"Until Saturday, it said, little injury or damage had been done, but the Reus bomb injured a large number of people."

Among the 33 taken to hospital were 24 British and Irish. British consular officials were meeting the Spanish authorities yesterday and Airt was talking to Spain's tour-

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'Our gifted girl taken'

Geoffrey Gibbs and Paul Webster in Paris

THE grieving parents of Caroline Dickinson, the Cornish schoolgirl raped and murdered while on a school trip to France, spoke yesterday of the crime that robbed them of their "quiet, loving and gifted" daughter.

A statement read out on their behalf by a local priest was accompanied by one of Caroline's poems (right). Its opening lines carry chilling echoes of her death in a youth hostel dormitory at Pleine Fougères, Brittany. Caroline, a pupil at Launceston College, was murdered as she slept on a mattress on the floor.

Judicial sources in Saint-Malo yesterday refused to comment on British press reports that they were close to making an arrest. But suggestions that the investigation was being scaled down were dismissed by the Foreign Office and by British Embassy officials in Paris.

Police have again questioned the eight people in the hostel who were not part of the Cornish party.

All the murder squad detectives called in are said to be still involved in the investigation.



Pupils laying tributes to Caroline

Friendship

Small child crying, weeping, dying. Alone on the concrete floor. No one worries, life full of hurries, Rushing past the concrete floor.

Someone hops, halts, stops. Standing by the concrete floor. Child looks up, hope, bright luck? Lying on the concrete floor. Friendship happens, opens, blossoms. Away from the concrete floor.

Life is complete, happy, amity. Through the summer days of life.

Caroline's parents agreed to make their statement on the condition that they and their family were not disturbed any further by the media.

The statement, read out by the Rev Tim Newcombe, vicar

Royal Ballet seeks new venue as Albert Hall declines hospitality

Dan Glaister Arts Correspondent

THE Royal Opera House's plans to move to other venues while its base in Covent Garden, London, is closed, started to unravel yesterday when the Royal Albert Hall announced it would not host the Royal Ballet during the two-year redevelopment period.

The ballet, which shares the Opera House with the Royal Opera, will now be left to look for a large, arena-type venue for 20 performances it wanted to give at the Albert Hall.

The snub to the ballet was compounded when it emerged the English National Ballet, which has been negotiating with the Albert Hall for five years, is close to announcing a regular presence at the Albert Hall.

Keith Cooper, director of corporate affairs at the Opera House, said: "We're very disappointed. It is only three weeks of a 20

week season but they were vital weeks because they were in a large venue where we would have been able to attract a lot of revenue."

Patrick Denchar, chief executive of the Royal Albert Hall, said the decision had been motivated by pressure on the Albert Hall's calendar, and its responsibility to its regular users, many of whom are small groups.

Richard Shaw, English National Ballet's head of public affairs, said: "It is an unfortunate irony our discussions with the Albert Hall have come to fruition at the same time as the Royal Ballet is looking for somewhere."

English National Ballet is understood to be creating new works for the Albert Hall as part of a 10 performance season for next spring. "We would like to perform part of our annual Shaw. We want to present big, spectacular, classical ballet for larger audiences at reasonable prices."

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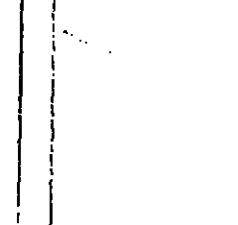
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Callers to charity helpline give insight on lives 'blighted by bullying'

Ethnic minority children 'still suffer racism daily'

Stuart Miller

ETHNIC minority youngsters are still suffering blatant racial harassment on a daily basis, according to a report published by the charity ChildLine yesterday.

Despite years of progress in race relations the lives of many young people are being blighted by unrelenting bullying and abuse, it said.

Researchers analysed the case records of more than 1,600 callers to the charity's helpline who had experienced racism in the year to March 1995. Although they formed a tiny percentage of the 90,000 callers in the period, ChildLine insisted that the findings were significant.

Callers came from backgrounds including African, Afro-Caribbean, Asian, Jewish

'They call me black bitch'

"I'm coloured. They call me nigger and black bitch. I just want to be respected." — *Mandy, aged 14*

"I am being bullied by girls at school because I'm slightly tanned. It's being going on for five years. My mum says ignore it, but I can't." — *Simona, 12*

"I'm half-caste. I've been bullied about it for 10 years. I feel like killing myself sometimes." — *Jason, 16*

"Mum has left because dad was hitting her. Now he's hitting me and calling me 'half-breed' and 'nigger' because my mum is black." — *Leley, 12*

and Irish. Most described themselves as British.

In many cases, the perpetrators were other young people. One in four callers said they had suffered racist bullying. Many were afraid to discuss it with their families or teachers.

A girl aged 12 said she had been attacked after school by three boys who poured petrol over her and called her names.

She was now terrified of walking to school.

Ethnic minority children in predominantly white schools were most at risk of harassment, the report concludes. Around 75 per cent of those bullied described themselves either as the only one in their class or school or as one of very few similar children.

More than one in eight had experienced racism in the home — usually those who were in relationships their parents found unacceptable. Around half described their families as racist. Some had come to resent their parents. One caller told the counsellor: "I hate myself, I hate my father. He made me black."

Valerie Howarth, ChildLine's chief executive, said: "These are not isolated incidents. For many young people these are a way of life."

Herman Ouseley, chairman of the Commission of Racial Equality, which is supporting ChildLine's campaign, along with *Mix* magazine and Crime Concern, said the findings reminded him of his experiences as a child in the 1950s.

"For too many young people, growing up in Britain today means facing racially motivated violence and persistent racial discrimination."

Heathrow heat tops Caribbean

Lucy Manning and Martin Wainwright

PITY the people who booked a summer holiday in Bermuda — England was warmer yesterday with temperatures reaching over 32C (90F).

Temperatures were high across most of the country with 32C (90F) recorded at RAF Marham in Norfolk and Spalding in Lincolnshire. However there was rain in both Scotland and Northern Ireland, with temperatures a low 15C (59F).

Holidaymakers heading abroad were having something of a wasted journey. Bermuda could only muster 31F, Corfu 82F and Nice in the south of France 77F. Sun worshippers would have been better advised to stay at Heathrow where temperatures reached 31C (89F).

The weather caused discomfort with workers mistaking their attire. Investment banker SBC-Warburgs said: "People here were wearing shorts because we have a casual dress policy. They were smart shorts however."

Fire services were also kept busy with grass fires. A

spokesman for Wiltshire Fire Brigade said: "We are bringing staff in to crew the appliances. We are dealing with a lot of field and grass fires. The fields are very dry, and any misuse of cigarettes or matches starts a fire."

The heat prompted a warning about cooling off in reservoirs and canals, following the death of two teenagers at Ogden Water reservoir near Halifax on Sunday.

Mohammed Asif, aged 18, and Mohammed Naseem, aged 19, who was due to be married early next month, were in a group sunbathing by the reservoir. Two jumped into the water in spite of warning notices. One reached safety but Asif got into difficulties and drowned, together with Naseem, whose body has not been recovered, who swam out to try and help him.

Yorkshire Water and Calderdale council repeated warnings that reservoirs were lethal, especially in hot temperatures which increased the risk of death by shock. The cold water is thought to have exhausted the two victims, who were both young and healthy. Far more rapidly than they could have foreseen.

Umpire juggles with evidence

John Ezard

THE mystique of the cricket field entered the High Court yesterday when an ex-umpire imitated a wicket keeper in action by hurling a ball joyously from hand to hand in the witness box.

Don Osear, senior instructor for the Association of Cricket Umpires, did so to show the jury what England's Bob Taylor had done after Ian Botham threw a new ball to him in the 1982 Oval Test against India.

Mr Osear said that every time he had walked on to a cricket field the wicket-keeper would shout for the ball and would then slap it from one glove to the other. "I think it's so they can ensure that they get the feel of the ball". He dismissed the allegation that Botham threw the ball to Taylor to scuff off the lacquer as "preposterous".

He was giving evidence for Botham and Allan Lamb on the sixth day of their *Wet* trial against Imran Khan. An article in *India Today* magazine which, they say, called them racist,

uneducated and lacking class and upbringing.

Mr Osear said cricket balls could be knocked out of shape "by many things — clattering against iron railings, indeed going through glass windows".

He denied that it was common practice for certain bowlers to pick at the seam of a ball. He had taken part with Botham in five Tests and never seen him tamper with a ball.

Taylor denied he tampered with the ball during the 1982 Test. It was common practice for a wicket-keeper to try to get the excess moisture off a new ball, and to get the feel of it.

Robin Smith, the England batsman, spoke of an incident in a winebar before a Lords Test in 1991. Imran Khan had asked how Pakistani bowler Aqib Javed was settling in at Hampshire, Smith's county side.

"There was an incident when Javed had tampered with the ball. Imran suggested that he should be a little more careful."

The hearing continues today, when David Gower, the former England captain, will give evidence.



The Mexican sculptor Gabriel Orozco with La D.S. (pronounced *désesse*, or goddess). It will feature in his show at the ICA, London, opening on Friday. The vintage Citroen car, a 1950s icon, has been cut up and reassembled. PHOTOGRAPH: TRICIA LING

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Tutsi victims relied on BBC radio to counter streams of Hutu 'lies'

Chris McGreal in Kigali recalls how the World Service became the voice of sanity amid the deluge of deaths and propaganda two years ago in Rwanda



THE FIRST word of the cataclysm ahead had come between the classical music and hate tirades on Radio Mille Collines.

But Tom Ndahiro had heard so many lies on the notorious voice of Hutu extremism he did not know whether to believe the report that Rwanda's president had been assassinated. Then the phone rang. It was the BBC.

lines provided the rallying cry for genocide with its exhortations to kill Tutsis. State-run Radio Rwanda was only mildly more restrained.

During those first few days inside the parliament building surrounded and outnumbered by Hutu forces, Tom Ndahiro was provided by the BBC with a crucial link beyond Rwanda's borders. The phone was cut not long after his chat with the Swahili service. "We had Radio Mille Collines going berserk telling people to kill Tutsis. We all listened to it because we had to know what they were saying. The BBC provided some psychotherapy," he said.

Not that he agreed with all the BBC had to say. While local radio spewed hatred, Mr Ndahiro says the World Service initially fell badly short by relying on Hutu stringers who made no mention of the unfolding genocide.

"The information given by the local correspondents didn't mention the massacres at all. But it wasn't easy even for the BBC to know the truth at first. No one could know exactly what was happening," he said.

"The arrival of [BBC World Service East Africa correspondent] Mark Doyle made a very big difference. Then the

picture was getting out. And the BBC kept us well-informed on what was happening at the United Nations and how the world was not going to do anything to put a stop to genocide.

As the full scale of the atrocities unfolded before Mr Ndahiro, the BBC also showed how different things could be. "There was Rwanda on the news but there was also the South African elections. Whereas you had South Africa, which had been under apartheid, stepping forward, we were stepping back a thousand years."

The BBC is now accessible to more Rwandans through a service in Kinyarwanda, albeit for just 15 minutes a day, part of which is dedicated to trying to reunite children with their families.

Rwandans herded off, page 7

E-mail your views or experiences of anywhere in the world to savebush@guardian.co.uk (BBC employees welcome).

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My World Service

David Bryer

OXFAM staff have been fringing or writing in the last fortnight and asking "what is going on?". From Azerbaijan to Zimbabwe they, and the locals they work with, are worried about the plans for the World Service.

Ever since I started working for Oxfam I have listened to the World Service. From the 1970s when I was working in Lebanon during the civil war, to a visit I made recently to Burundi, I have found it to be the best source of objective information there is. Knowing what was going on, where and when, could be a matter of life and death.

It seems to us that what John Birt proposes will be bad for the BBC, bad for Britain and worst of all, bad for listeners. What we fear is that the World Service will be swallowed up, or at least damaged, by the agenda of the domestic

services, and that in the process it will lose its *raison d'être* which is truly for nation to speak unto nation.

Many of the problems of today's world are rooted in false propaganda. Conflict is fuelled by inaccurate and biased reporting. The World Service has stood out as the purveyor of accurate information. Its future cannot just be a detail in the great plan to make the BBC more efficient. It is about actually helping to make the world a better and more peaceful place.

David Bryer is director of Oxfam (United Kingdom/Ireland).

He was played by a pubescent girl in lurex tights with a woolly dog's head; a sort of Snowy meets the Sans-Culottes. Sebastian Faulks

6 WORLD NEWS

West presses Asean to act on Burmese rights

Nick Cumming-Bruce in Jakarta

SOUTH East Asian governments seeking to build closer ties with Burma will today hear the concerns of the European Union and western Pacific rim states over continuing political repression in the country.

The determination of Western delegations to air these concerns against the wishes of the host Indonesia will inject a note of discord into the six-day series of meetings which so far have celebrated the prospects of Burma joining the Association of South East Asian Nations (Asean).

Asean admitted Burma as an observer at the weekend as a first step towards full membership, a process it is expected to complete before the end of the decade.

The Irish foreign minister, Dick Spring, met his Burmese counterpart, Ohn Gyaw, yesterday to convey "strongly" the EU's "deep and serious" concerns over what it sees as the deteriorating political situation in Burma.

As current chairman of the EU Council of Ministers, Mr Spring was later asked if the Burmese had been receptive. He said: "I think they certainly understood the concerns."

EU governments have stalled Danish calls for economic sanctions against Burma, referring the matter for study. But officials say Mr Spring will make it clear today that the EU sees developments in Burma as "fairly negative" and that relations will suffer if they remain so.

The US secretary of state, Warren Christopher, who arrived in Jakarta yesterday, has also distanced the Clinton administration from calls for sanctions. But he said Washington wants talks to see what steps Asean might be prepared to take "to try to ensure that the regime in Burma does not take additional repressive action and provides more openness for their people."

"We're very concerned about the situation in Burma," he added.

A number of Western governments are now saying, though privately, that Asean may find its standing and reputation compromised by its admission to full membership of a country such as Burma, tarnished by political repression and human rights abuses.

But Asean leaders show no sign of responding to an appeal from the Burmese pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi for pressure on the ruling junta. Asean governments concede that there are what the Indonesian foreign minister, Ali Alatas, describes as "some problems" in Burma. But they deny that this implies a failure of their "constructive engagement" policy towards Rangoon.

They have also dismissed with some irritation the opinion voiced last week by the European Commission vice-president, Manuel Marin, that Burma's admission to Asean could hurt EU ties with the association.

Mr Ohn Gyaw has sought to reassure Asean by pledging that Burma is committed to creating a multi-party political system and by acknowledging that it will have to adjust its legal system to meet Asean standards.

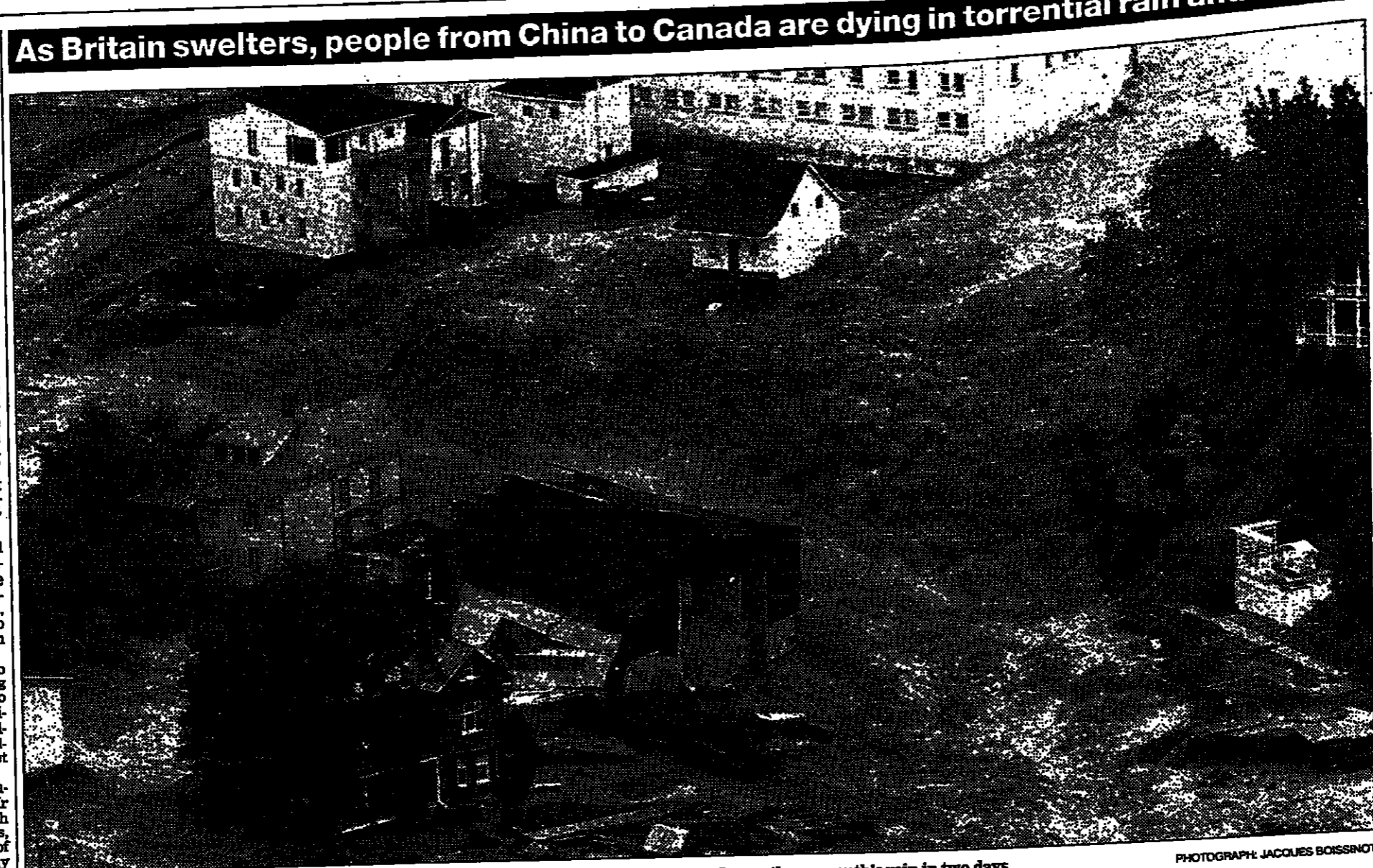
He sought yesterday to placate the EU by handing Mr Spring a report on the death in custody of James Nichols, the former honorary consul of Denmark, Finland, Norway and Switzerland. Rangoon had ignored earlier requests for a full medical report.

But at a press conference, Mr Ohn Gyaw blamed Mr Nichols' death on his eating "something incompatible with his health" and resisted calls for an independent autopsy as interference.

The Burmese foreign minister, defying calls for reconciliation with Ms Suu Kyi, made clear that Burma's ruling generals saw no need for dialogue with "an individual". His comments coincided with a commentary in the state-run press in Burma saying the "actress" Suu Kyi would not satisfy qualifications to become an MP in the parliament eventually to be created.

In May, the Burmese government arrested 262 members of Ms Suu Kyi's party in an attempt to block a meeting where she had vowed to write an alternative constitution.

Mr Ohn Gyaw insisted that those detained were not arrested: "They were invited and they were asked what was the purpose of their meeting," he said. Asked how many were still in detention, he said: "We do not arrest people at random. If they have transgressed the law, then of course they have to be punished."



Floodwater pours into central Chicoutimi, Quebec, as a dam gives way under the pressure of more than a month's rain in two days

PHOTOGRAPH: JACQUES BOISSINOT



Li Peng, prime minister of China (top), inspects the flooding Yangtze in Wuhan, capital of Hubei province, as officials warn that the worst is yet to come, while citizens of south Bombay cool off in a flooded street

Beijing mobilises 8 million to fight the rising waters

Foreign staff

MILLIONS of people were battling yesterday against floods in south and central China which have already killed more than 800.

In Bangladesh and India, monsoon-related floods have killed nearly 150 people and in Canada eight died when torrential rain caused rivers to burst their banks.

As rain, accompanied in some places by lightning and gale-force winds, continued over much of southern China, swelling the mighty Yangtze river, officials warned of more to come.

"The new week brings the start of a 20-day period that is thought by experts to be the country's most dangerous in terms of floods," the official China Daily said. "It may be that the worst is yet to come."

About 8 million officials, soldiers, police, reservists and military academy students have been mobilised to rescue people trapped by the floodwaters and to strengthen flood defences.

By last Thursday nearly 4 million people had been cut off by floods, while 810,000 homes had collapsed and 2.8 million had been damaged in eight provinces, the ministry of civil affairs said.

Floods have killed at least 864 people in China this year and caused billions of pounds worth of damage.

But the state flood-control headquarters was "confident that the worsening situation would be under effective control as a whole".

Military helicopters have been airlifting rice, medicine, clothing and tents to the stranded, officials said.

The water level in China's largest fresh-water lake, Dongting in Hunan province, surged to 116ft, more than 3ft above the previous high mark, a local official told Reuters by telephone.

"The water level is the highest ever... the period of downpours is the longest ever," he said. "The area of farmland affected by floods is the biggest ever."

Officials warned that areas along the lower and middle reaches of the Yangtze, China's longest river, faced the risk of further flooding, putting rice and rapeseed crops in peril.

Rapeseed, harvested in June and July and expected to yield about 8 million tonnes, was under threat in Anhui and Guizhou provinces, a Hong Kong trader said.

"There is not enough silo space, so usually the rapeseed is left in the open. So if it is piled up somewhere when the rains come, that's it."

But the waters have receded in the south-western city of Luzhou, which was totally inundated to a level of four storeys, and left with 12 to 16 inches of mud, a local official said. Workers were cleaning the streets and checking to see if houses were safe to live in.

The prime minister, Li Peng, toured Hunan and Hubei provinces at the weekend and urged their people "to start reconstruction and the restoration of crop production where the flood has receded so as to have a bumper harvest in spite of the flooding", the Xinhua news agency said.

The total economic losses from the flooding in Hunan, Hubei, Zhejiang, Jiangxi, Anhui, Guizhou, Guangxi and Jiangsu provinces in central and southern China were estimated at about more than 60 billion yuan (about \$5 billion).

In India, at least 30 people have been killed in landslides and 30 have died in floods in West Bengal state, bordering Bangladesh, since July 13.

Across the border in Bangladesh many people have taken refuge on the roofs of their half-submerged houses, while others have sought higher ground. People in shelters and those stranded in their flooded homes faced shortages of food, drinking water and other essentials, despite air-drops of relief goods by army helicopters. Bangladesh officials said.

Meanwhile, health officials said yesterday that diarrhoea had broken out, affecting thousands of flood survivors.

In eastern Canada, several days of heavy rainfall led to a small dam bursting late on Sunday in the river city of Chicoutimi in Quebec, adding to the estimated 10,000 people forced out of their homes to emergency shelters.

Tens of thousands are without electricity and telephone service. Flooded roads have cut off suburbs and whole towns in central and eastern Quebec.

The authorities fear that several other dams may fail under the pressure.

Alphabet soup makes it all as clear as your SEANWFZ

Reuters in Jakarta

THE Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) has an A-to-Z list of hundreds of abbreviations to identify its varied activities.

From AAA (Asean Airports Association) to Zopfan (Zone of Peace, Freedom and Neutrality), the alphabet soup of a list spells out how the group that was founded to foster regional economic and cultural co-operation has expanded in 29 years.

There is still room for confusion. ACF encompasses the Asean Cardiologist Federation, the Asean Cultural Fund and the Asean Constructors Federation.

Some command attention: Seasee is the Southeast Asia Association on Seismology and Earthquake Engineering.

Others are cumbersome: JAWFCS is the Joint Ad Hoc Working Group on Shipping; and BAAIJV stands for Basic Agreement on Asean Industrial Joint Ventures.

Some are to the point: BOF for the Board of Planners and MOP for the Minister of Tariff Preference.

Many seem inscrutable: SEANWFZ for Southeast Asian Nuclear Weapons Free Zone; and WGNCEA for Working Group on Non-conventional Energy Research Project.

A few suggest pomposity: HLWP stands for High Level Working Party.

Waiting for heaven is purgatory

Jessica Berry meets a family of devout Christians who moved from Michigan to Jericho in search of the hard life

EDAIR, her husband and seven children are wearing sackcloth and living in a small brick hut in Jericho: they waved goodbye to modern civilisation 30 months ago to follow the Scriptures.

Their Palestinian hosts are bewildered. "Crazies," said one, raising his finger to his head. The feeling is mutual.

To Edair, nothing could be more natural than her new life. This world is a terrible place to live in, she said, full of crime, wars and materialism. Far better, she thought, to up sticks and leave Michigan for the Promised Land to prepare for the next life.

"We had to choose a citizenship in this world or the next, and we felt accountable to our Maker not to enjoy ourselves but to prepare for the next life."

Edair and her husband Shomer — he used to be called Mark in Michigan — are not Jews, they are Christians of a different sort: they follow the Scriptures to the letter. So do their children.

They have nine now. Some are in sackcloth nappies, the rest in long white gowns. The girls wear head-dresses, of course, because the Bible tells them to.

They have done away with the trappings of modernity: watches, telephones, electricity and "graven images," Edair has forgotten how old she is: "What year are we in? I think I'm 37."

"No, you're not, you're 35," interrupted her five-year-old.

"We are on the path of light. Right now we are concentrating on the second commandment about images," Edair said, breast-feeding her youngest through an opening in her gown.

"We have destroyed all our wedding pictures and our passports. We thought we'd be able to use our passports to write in but we realised they were covered in images."

Their small brick barn is all but crumbling, but it provides shade.

It has three rooms and a courtyard, which, if they are not eating in it, they are cleaning with buckets of water. There is one bed, but look after each other, under their mother's no-nonsense rules.

When asked to do something the reply must be: "Sure, I'd be glad to." And whiny voices, adds Edair, do not go unheeded.

Machia, aged 11 — Matthew in his former life — will be punished if he continues to grumble, she said.

Any child looking for an easy life should avoid this one. Life is not to be enjoyed, they are constantly reminded.

This, said Edair, putting her now well-fed baby in an iron cradle, "is the school of life. We teach the kids their character traits: impeccable honesty, etiquette, manners and carefulness in their work."

But their quest for the path of light has been slow, and at one stage seemed to be over before it had even begun. Israel wanted to deport them. But Palestinian-controlled Jericho offered to put them up.

Free at last, they now have a long wait: until the next life or the second coming — whichever arrives first.

Some of the nine children are in sackcloth nappies, the rest in long white gowns

It is not to be slept in. Shomer — in his former life a chiropractor — still works sometimes, though not for money.

"In those days they used barter and exchange, so we do too," explained his wife.

It is the children's job to keep the place clean and

News in brief

India's budget 'for poor'
India's coalition government presented its first budget yesterday to the disappointment of those looking for a more aggressive free-market approach.

Shares on the Bombay stock exchange tumbled as the measures, described by the prime minister, H. D. Deve Gowda, as being "for the poor and the poorest of the poor", were announced. — Reuters.

Polls go-ahead
Cambria's military leader, Captain Yahya Jammeh, said yesterday that presidential elections would go ahead on September 11 despite warnings from the election committee that there is not enough time for organisation.

Capt Jammeh said a ban on political parties would be lifted after an August referendum on the new constitution but that any political aspirant trying to cause trouble "will be executed and buried six feet deep". — Reuters.

Vodka-free zones
Moscow's mayor, Yuri Luzhkov, decreed yesterday that spirits can no longer be sold near schools, child-care centres, health clinics or churches in the Russian capital, which has a problem with drunks. Areas around railway stations, airports and military facilities are also off-limits for spirits sales. — AP.

Handy advice
Australian crocodile handlers have been told by a Queensland government publication, rather sensibly, not to "place any part of one's body in the mouth of a crocodile". Work on the guide began after a fatality on a crocodile farm in 1994. — AP.

Bus ambushed
An armed group thought to be Islamic militants, stopped a bus at a fake police checkpoint on Sunday and killed 12 passengers near the Algerian town of Keddara, about 30 miles south of Algiers, witnesses said. All the dead were employees of a state-owned truck manufacturer. — AP.

Poisoning spreads
More than 8,200 people have now fallen ill in an outbreak of food poisoning in Japan being blamed on a virulent strain of the E. Coli bacteria. The western city of Sakai has been worst hit. — AP.

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Handwritten Arabic text: ٥٤١ من الايام

Burundi herds Rwandans off to face uncertainties of home

Hutu refugees are 'choosing' the lesser of two evils, writes Chris McGreal in Butare

THEOGENE BIGENDO weighed the odds and decided to do what he has done for the past two years: stick with the crowd. So yesterday he lifted his three small children on to the back of a lorry, hauled himself in and desperately hoped he was making the right choice in going back to Rwanda for the first time in two years. "We left Rwanda because of the war. Anybody could be killed. People were dying everywhere. It was not safe to go back even after the war. People told us the killing was still going on. But now the army tells us we must go and I think if we stay we will be killed here in Burundi. Maybe it is more dangerous here than there," Mr Bigendo said. Last Thursday, Burundian soldiers surrounded thousands of Rwandan Hutus packing Kibenzi refugee camp



in northern Burundi and told them it was time to leave. The prefect of Rwanda's Butare province, Athanase Sebumbungu, promised the refugees proper treatment if they went home. He said he expected everyone to get on to the lorries. After that the camp would be destroyed. It was clear to everyone that Burundi and Rwanda were working together to get them out. Mr Bigendo joined the steady stream that has seen more than 7,000 Rwandan Hutus leave Burundi in four days with no sign of a let-up. Rwandan officials say they expect all 85,000 refugees from camps in Burundi to be sent back, although several thousand have taken to the hills to avoid repatriation. Lorries, pick-up trucks and minibuses are delivering refugees to the border because the United Nations has refused to participate in what it deems illegal expulsions. Mr Bigendo was delivered

father as soldiers made a cursory search of their meagre belongings before the family joined the snaking lines to register for transport home, and collect some food. The Burundian army says it gave the refugees a gentle push, and by the standards of some forced repatriations it was restrained. The army wrecked a few shelters, tearing off the ubiquitous blue plastic sheeting given to every refugee. But no one spoke of violence. Theoretically, any refugee is free to refuse to return to Rwanda. But foreign aid officials have been kept away from the repatriation on the Burundi side of the border so the only people to whom the refugees can make such a request are the soldiers herding them on to lorries. So far no one is known to have asserted his right to remain. Mr Bigendo, like most other refugees, realises that what security he had was in numbers and that Burundi is not a good place to be a lone Hutu. The largely Tutsi army says it is in "hot pursuit" of Hutu rebels after the weekend mas-

sacre of Tutsi children, women and men in Burundi's central Gitega area. Although the military said there will be no reprisals, it is as notorious as the rebels for retribution against civilians, and Hutu refugees are an easy target. Burundi's government has declared a week of mourning for the murdered Tutsis, heightening tensions. Mr Bigendo said he is keen to go home to his commune, Ruhororo. But he has no idea what he will find when he gets there. He does not know if someone has moved into his house. He does not know how his neighbours will greet him. Suspicion is cast on anyone who remained a refugee for so long. Did they participate in the genocide? If they are not guilty of anything, why did they stay away? "No one can accuse me of anything. I did nothing wrong during the war. I only stayed away because everyone said it was dangerous in Rwanda. They told me Hutus who went home were being killed. I do not know if it is true," he said.



A victim of a weekend massacre at Bugendana camp in Burundi's Gitega area. The army says Hutu rebels killed more than 300 displaced Tutsis, mostly women and children

News in brief

Sri Lanka forces try to recapture base

GOVERNMENT reinforcements were yesterday fighting their way towards a large Sri Lankan army base that Tamil rebels claim to have captured after wiping out a 1,200-strong garrison. Warships were ferrying hundreds of infantrymen to join commandos flown in earlier by helicopter to lift the siege on the Mullativu camp, the deputy defence minister, Anuraudha Ratwatte, said yesterday. The battle was one of the deadliest in the 13-year civil war. — AP, Colombo.

Israel's army 'in the dark'

THE MILITARY analyst of a leading Israeli newspaper said yesterday that the prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, was withholding key military and political information from the army. Ze'ev Schiff claimed in the newspaper Ha'aretz that senior security officials knew nothing about Mr Netanyahu's plans for Hebron and said a decision to ease a closure on the West Bank and Gaza Strip was not co-ordinated with them. "Cards are being held close to the chest, hidden even from the army," he said. — Reuters, Jerusalem.

Priest repents on Holocaust

ABBE PIERRE, the French priest who was sharply criticised for supporting a revisionist text on the Holocaust, retracted yesterday and apologised for the offence he had caused. The 83-year-old priest was rebuked last month by Church authorities after he praised a book which questioned the number of Jews killed by the Nazis and which accused Israel of exploiting the Holocaust for political ends. — AP, Paris.

US offers exit to Saudi staff

THE state department said yesterday that all United States government employees based in Saudi Arabia and their families could return home at government expense if they wished to do so for security reasons, a spokesman, Nicholas Burns, said the secretary of state, Warren Christopher, had approved the plan, but added: "The US government is confident in the stability of Saudi Arabia and in its commitment to provide security for all Americans in the kingdom." — Reuters, Washington.



Teenage venturer

A JAPANESE teenager set sail in a 30ft yacht yesterday to try to become the youngest person to make a solo crossing of the Pacific. "I think I may get lonely but I think I can make it," Subaru Takahashi, aged 14 (left), told the Mainichi Shinbun newspaper. "I really look forward to getting there." His yacht Advantage is carrying water and food for two months and satellite and radio equipment to fix its position, Kyodo News said. Subaru, from Niigata prefecture, hopes to complete the 6,000-mile journey to San Francisco in 50 to 60 days. He made a 19-mile solo crossing of the Sado Strait by canoe at the age of nine, took up yachting at 10, and has had 50 hours of intensive training for his voyage. — AP, Tokyo.

Robbery turns sour

AMUGGING suspect was stunned when he learned who was charged with robbing — the 94-year-old mother of Vincent "The Chin" Gigante, the reputed boss of the country's most powerful crime family. New York Police Lieutenant Robert McKenna said Willie King had a "resigned look on his face, sort of saying, 'How could I be so stupid?'" Police said Yolanda Gigante was attacked on Sunday as she walked near her home with her other son, the Rev Louis Gigante, a Roman Catholic priest. The attacker took her purse. Mr King, aged 37, was arrested nearby. Vincent Gigante has murder and racketeering charges pending. — Reuters, New York.

My struggling son was dragged from our house by policemen, handcuffed and virtually naked, and locked into a waiting ambulance. Living with schizophrenia.

G2 page 12

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Diary Dan Atkinson

HEATH Resignation may not have been quite what it seemed, we understand. Officially, the Paymaster General quit over the single currency, but a supporting factor is thought to have been his distaste for having to give away the principle that a Britisher's home is his castle.

Back in April David Heathcoat-Amory was reportedly faced with having to support in Brussels Euro-directive giving Brussels fraud inspectors the right to search without warrant any premises anywhere in the Union. DHA was clearly unhappy with the regulation, but the beef war intervened and the search-law was vetoed. But it is due to return from the grave and be implemented in January.

Perhaps the thought of justifying this particular dikast pushed the Paymaster over the edge. PAYMASTER General was once one of those funny old jobs a Catholic wasn't supposed to hold; there are still a few, like King.

At present, Britain's five million-odd RCs are supposedly aging at the prospect of the next PM (maybe) Tony Blair, coming over to Rome, but those in the know find far more gripping the mechanics of Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles' rumoured application to annul his marriage to Camilla.

The whirring tape recorders of the Westminster Diocesan Marriage Tribunal in Marylebone Road soak up an average four hours of evidence per applicant; fortunately for the Brigadier (and the Prince of Wales), the interviewers are discreet in the extreme. The applicant is expected also to call witnesses to support his case; their evidence will account for maybe four more C6s. Camilla, when approached from the side of the story, could refuse to cooperate, which may not necessarily harm the Brigadier's chances. Or she could exercise her right to call witnesses (who will they include, we wonder?).

The nature of the questions seem to be leading, but any RC canon lawyer will tell you Camilla would do Andrew no favours were she to over-egg it on what a good bloke he was: the tribunal judges the validity of the marriage, not the parties' conduct. Finally, the papers will go before a "court", where a priest-lawyer will be appointed as "defender of the bond", arguing against granting the annulment. APB should get a verdict by mid-1998.

WE thought we had him, we really did. Hardly had Patrick Malahide popped up in his new guise of F G Duggan, author of the now-running BBC1 thriller *The Writing On The Wall*, than we thought of *The Day Of The Jackal* (1971) for the cover-name of the anonymous would-be De Gaulle killer. There it was — Duggan. Ah, the mischief! The irony! One call to a Mr M associate blew that one. Duggan is not the pseudonym, but the real name. Draig and double-draig, but we won't be evicted from Duggan-land that easily. Malahide may not have been playing a legal ploy, but Douglas Ford certainly has. Our ex-Foreign Secretary marked the 25th anniversary of Frederick Forsyth's bestseller some days ago with an article praising its style and detail. "The join between fact and fiction is invisible," declared Dee-Dee. Too right. The rumour that Jackal is not fiction at all, but could be a true story gleaned by Forsyth when a Reuters man in France in the early sixties, has never died away. And who, as private secretary to the FO's permanent under secretary of state, between 1960 and 1963, would know, if anyone does, whether there really had been an off-the-general plot at that time, involving an Englishman? That's right.

TECHNOLOGICAL breakthrough from South West Trains, who have been plagued by ventilation problems; £100,000 is to be invested "to install windows which can be opened if the air conditioning should fail."

YOU HAVE TO STOP BILL COLES TALKING OVER THE WALL.



Weak link in a novel chain of events

Commentary Hugo Young

WHAT happened to the Government yesterday was quite serious. With ineffable clumsiness, a minister resigned in circumstances he did not intend.

But a far more serious situation beckons, which Tony Blair has the power to bring about. It is hard to see how the Tories could survive.

It would be a lethal punch.

What happened to the Government began to fall apart. Were Blair to get in first, the eruption on the Euro-sceptic wing would become impossible to contain.

First, it is not necessary, even if you're strongly biased against Britain joining the single currency. The opt-out Major secured at Maastricht

precipitated the resignation of Kenneth Clarke, to name but one, without gaining any significant new allies.

For his change of line would be seen as having come not at the suggestion of his own party, itself an undesirable thing to do, but as a surrender to the Opposition.

Irresistible though such a temptation looks, I do not think Mr Blair will succumb to it. One cannot be absolutely sure.

When these politicians say they want a pledge only for the life of the next parliament, they are being honest neither with the facts nor with their intentions.

While the opt-out gives a genuine, if difficult, opportunity for a second guess, the manifesto commitment many Tories now want does not.

That so many of them do now want it is remarkable.

This is a triumph of ideology over pragmatism, which Prime Minister never countenanced on such a scale. It says that prudence should be abandoned, and the future mortgaged to a single unal-

terable point of view regardless of circumstances.

This is not even based on a rational account of public opinion. It presumes the availability of some vast electoral dividend from coming out clearly against this European adventure.

Heathcoat-Amory, who hoped to retire then launch a Euro-sceptic pamphlet, looks like a political idiot.

The rumours of a Blair pledge could have started with Labour people who seriously want him to give it because they dislike the single currency as much as many Tories do or with Labour news-managers who want no such thing, but see the attractions of goading the Cabinet towards a pledge they know Kenneth Clarke will never wear or with the Tory press, inventing quotes from shadow spokespersons, which have the same effect.

We've already seen the capacity of the Tory Right to build up fears of a Labour flanking

movement. The same stories of pre-emptive forehandedness, Cabinet decision, over Mr Clarke's next-dead body, to commit to the single-currency referendum.

The stakes are now much higher. After all, the decision on whether to apply for first-round entry into EMU will have to be taken within just six months of a Spring election.

The Labour position is, on the principle, not opposed. Mr Blair and Mr Brown have said that clearly and often.

They will be in difficulty if Major changes tack and surrenders to the Redwood option; but not in more difficulty than Major himself, who will have lost his Chancellor and quite possibly Hezza as well.

Mr Blair, forsaking his opportunity to wreck the Government, is gambling on the readiness of his party to accept entry into EMU if the terms are right, and on the willingness of the country not to be stamped into Euro-phobia by a party crazy enough to wreck the Government more seriously than Kenneth Clarke. This is an intelligent, national-interest position.

Let's hope he holds to it.

The problem with arms and the men



Beatrix Campbell

THERE will be gun control in Australia. There won't be gun control in Britain. Passionate commitment to a firearms ban enabled the new Conservative coalition government to announce that in search of a person, to metamorphose into a statesman.

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Less celebrated and more complex politically has been another mass movement for gun control — in Manchester Moss Side where the notorious killing of 14-year-old Benjie Stanley signalled the catastrophic consequences for communities surviving on the edge, who have often felt raided rather than resourced by the police. This exposed the dangerous contradictions of policing driven by law enforcement rather than the maintenance of public peace. And this in a neighbourhood where 40 per cent of residents are black and complaints of racist policing are routine.

A vigorous community coalition for gun control has emerged in this small enclave, embracing professionals who work with offenders, community activists and churches.

In Australia, Women Against Guns launched itself in 1987, the same year as Hungerford, in the wake of two mass killings. In the nineties, another law-abiding father of a shooter's licence, Malcolm Baker, killed Kerry Anne Gannon. She had gained a domestic violence injunction against him. He killed her. He also murdered her father, her sister, his son and two others.

THE women's movement galvanised the emerging consensus. A year ago, two officers in New South Wales were killed answering a domestic violence call. The coroner, in that case, called submissions on the gun laws. An amazing coalition emerged, embracing several medical Royal Colleges, the Bar Association and many academic law departments, health departments, churches, battered women's networks and the union of bank tellers — most of their members are women.

A simple technological improvisation — fax-back — enabled 330 of organisations to sign up and send back their endorsement of the campaign's submission to the coroner.

The campaign's research also challenged the High Noon ethics of gun ownership: most homicides are domestic and guns are used more often in domestic killings than homicides. Eighty per cent of gun deaths are suicides. "We lose more people through gun deaths than road accidents," says the campaign co-ordinator Rebecca Peters. "We say this is a public health issue rather than a criminal justice issue."

Politicians were always afraid of the shooters but Port Arthur gave them the opportunity to be brave in a country that is defining a new national identity. Dubliners gave Westminster the chance to pay its respects to Scotland, to children and to public safety. However, nothing it seems, is more important than a man's right to his gun.

Leaving our Waterloo

Voters are losing faith in the old European ideals. Donald Sassoon argues for a rewritten constitution to form the basis of a new social democratic settlement

AFTER Waterloo Wellington is supposed to have remarked: "We are, we have been, and, I hope, we shall always be detested in France." Substitute the Continent for France and you have the quintessence of the europhobic position.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Conservative Party stands still, hoping that Europe will do the same. Yet, in the past, Europe will move on to face the unprecedented challenge of unifying a continent, once devastated by cataclysmic "civil wars", later divided by the Cold War. Those on the left who do not wish to stand still have to consider how to develop social democratic policies.

A Europe in which social democracy thrives is one in which the fundamental rules and legal framework facilitate the development of a "social" market economy: full employment can become, once again, an attainable goal, the welfare state can be more easily defended and where a significant percentage of the population is not excluded from material prosperity. This can only be the result of co-operation with Christian Democrats, Liberals with a social conscience, and those conservatives committed to social cohesion.

Economics has been for too long the key driving force of the Union: originally a Steel and Coal Community, then a Common Market, then a Single Market and perhaps a Monetary Union. Politics has too often taken second place. The last enlargement brought in relatively rich countries. Future entrants from eastern and central Europe are poorer than Greece and Portugal. A future expansion requires a drastic revision of the existing architecture of the EU.

Enlargement has always taken place on the basis of the so-called acquis communautaire, the tenet that every new member must accept all that has been achieved so far: the Treaties, the legislation so far adopted, the case law of the Court of Justice, all resolutions and international agreements — 125,000 pages of official texts. This is so obviously unrealistic that, in practice, the acquis has become more a general declaration of intent than an inflexible principle. Prospective members are asked to meet certain conditions before entry and are then allowed a whole paraphernalia of temporary derogations and transitional arrangements.



A-MANUZE

hood that a lasting disaffection will be created among significant segments of their electorates. The seeds for systematic anti-Europeanism, thus implanted, will blossom as national politicians will find it politically rewarding to blame the EU and the taxing conditions imposed by wealthy countries. How can this disparate community be held together and enlarged? What should be its central rules? We know that it must be democratic and seen to be democratic, that its diversity must be protected, and that it must provide economic and political security. The European Union does not possess a charter or constitution which establishes the rules of its governance, its basic principles, the rights of

its citizens. In its place it has the acquis communautaire, which is an exercise in constitution-making. The object should be to codify the key political principles in the shape of a European Charter which must be accepted by all. This Charter should establish the purpose of the Union, its values, how it proposes to defend and enhance the cultural and political rights of the diverse ethnic, cultural, religious and linguistic rights of minorities within the Union. The Charter would include all the existing rights under the present acquis, the European Convention on Human Rights, a clear separation of powers between the EU and the nation-states (ie subsidiarity) and the decision-making

structure within the institutions of the Union. Finally, it should commit the Union to ensuring that all its citizens can participate fully in economic life. New entrants would be expected to underwrite the Charter in toto, without pre-emptive negotiations on hard economic issues. Because the Charter would establish fundamental rights, it would encourage their protection throughout the pre-entry period helping the new entrants to consolidate further their transition to democracy. Negotiations would still be required to determine the timetable for economic convergence. Europeans would acquire a visible stake in the Union, see their rights reinforced and perhaps now ones established. The Charter would counteract, perhaps even eliminate, a purely economic context of the EU, the fear that existing social rights will be eroded and the anxiety that national cultural differences would be wiped away.

The Charter would provide the Labour Party with a positive campaigning theme on European issues seeking to build bridges with the Liberals and further divide the Conservatives. It would enable Britain to be, finally, at the heart of Europe. It would resolve the debate on whether or not Britain would have a written Bill of Rights. What is at stake is not the content of the Charter — to a large extent the question is to systematise the essential constitutional elements of the acquis communautaire. Drawing the Charter would be an opportunity to open up a Europe-wide debate on the issue of rights, social protection, and the separation of powers in the Union. Its drafting would involve not only the European Council and the member states but also the national parliaments (or their representatives) and the European Parliament. It would be ratified by referendum in each member-state. It would signal to the countries of eastern and central Europe that membership of the European Union entails the acceptance of the European model of social capitalism, not a debilitating shock therapy leading to a kind of unregulated capitalism which has never existed in Western Europe. A Charter will contribute to the clarity which is so required if the EU is to appear to European citizens as less alien body. Though it would not eliminate the democratic deficit, it would go some way towards winning the support of European citizens by bringing to the fore a vision of an authentic community of peoples, not only a set of economic arrangements. It would re-establish social democracy at the heart of Europe. Donald Sassoon teaches History at Queen Mary and Westfield College and is the author of *Social Democracy At The Heart Of Europe* (Penguin, 67.50), out today. He has recently published *One Hundred Years Of Socialism. The West European Left In The Twentieth Century*.

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July 23 1996

Financial Editor: Alex Brummer
Telephone: 0171-239-9610
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Finance Guardian

TUC prods Bank on EMU

Larry Elliott and Rebecca Smithers

GROWING splits on the Left over Europe will be revealed today when TUC leaders press the Bank of England for a more positive approach to a single currency and a group of 50 opposition Euro-sceptics step up their attack on monetary union.

Eddie George and his deputy, Howard Davies, in the first top-level discussions between the Bank and the unions on the EMU project. The TUC, which has become markedly more enthusiastic about a single currency over the past couple of years, will be stressing the dangers of the UK being left behind by a hard-core group likely to go ahead with monetary union in 1999.

"We are clear about the costs of allowing other countries to make the running, and then only joining belatedly when the rules have been made," one source said. The TUC is eager to see an employment clause included in the EMU project, but it also sees direct advantages from involvement in the preparations for the single currency. Tony Dobbins, leader of the print union GPMU, will attend the talks as part of the unions' campaign to have the new Euro currency printed in the UK.

Although the TUC is now adopting a pro-European stance, the Labour leadership is determined not to be rushed into a decision on the EMU. Labour Party leader Tony Blair believes the arguments are finely balanced, and that the party is entitled to debate the issue fully. The strength of anti-EMU feeling in the Parliamentary Labour Party was reflected today when around 50 MPs — enough to cause trouble for a future Labour administration — supported a new pamphlet opposing a single currency. It warned that monetary union would mean "all effective economic policy will be transferred from an elected govern-

ment to European bankers, beyond our control". Like their Tory counterparts, they are urging their leader to act now to rule out a single currency in the lifetime of the next Parliament. The detailed question-and-answer leaflet has been produced by Diane Abbott, a member of the party's ruling National Executive Committee; Dennis Davies, the former Treasury minister; Alan Simpson, chairman of the left-wing Campaign Group of MPs; Euro MP Ailzoua; former leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party and Llew Smith MP, chair-

man of People's Europe. Pro-Europe Labour MPs noted a number of strongly anti-Europe motions simultaneously drawn up by constituency parties ahead of Labour's party conference. The chairman of the all-party European Movement, Giles Radice MP, has written to all Labour MPs in an attempt to set out the case for monetary union. "Joint economic action at a European level is far more likely to assist Labour's drive to reduce unemployment and improve Britain's competitiveness than a go-it-alone approach," he said.

Notebook

Missing out on the millennium



Alex Brummer

research and development versus supporting a millennium pavilion. It is a case of British industry giving something back to the nation, and underpinning the value of UK technology and brands at the same time. If that means some arm-twisting by the deputy prime minister, so be it.

Halifax hubris

THE Halifax — soon to be Britain's most broadly held consumer bank — has decided to update its members on the next steps to conversion.

However, instead of choosing to write to each member individually, which would ensure that everyone knows the rules of the game, the society has chosen to place its 19-page explanatory booklet in branch offices. It ought to have realised that a large number of its depositors and borrowers, including those who pay their mortgages by standing order, rarely go near their branch.

Indeed, since the flurry of publicity which followed Halifax's decision to merge with the Leeds and turn itself into a plc, it has shown a notable absence of communication. The Halifax, which will go public in June 1997, we learn from the new booklet, will be a very different group to the organisation that announced conversion on November 25, 1994.

It has used the intervening period to embark on an ambitious expansion programme, snapping up the books of central mortgage lenders, buying estate agency offices abandoned by the Alliance & Leicester, spending £500 million on Clerical Medical and more recently seeking to forge a relationship with health insurance provider Bupa.

Yet, despite this flurry of activity, the Halifax makes no attempt to explain in its booklet what this acquisitive strategy, paid for with members' funds, is all about or where it is leading. That is not something it will be able to do when it is a plc, without upsetting its big-battalion shareholders.

As for the conversion, it is taking — as chief executive Mike Blackburn acknowledges — an extraordinarily long time. Putting more than 10 million people on to the same data base is a huge exercise, although one suspects that the regulatory aspects of the change are less arduous than Mr Blackburn claims.

The leisurely timetable does indicate, however, that share certificates will be distributed in June 1997. This is one windfall which will come too late for the this government to harvest.

Deal wins approval despite attacks from shareholders



Costain pushes through financial plan for survival

Ian King

COSTAIN, the troubled construction group, received shareholder backing yesterday for a controversial refinancing package that will see a little-known Malaysian group take a 40 per cent stake in the company.

At a stormy extraordinary general meeting held at the Queen Elizabeth II Conference Centre in Westminster, shareholders approved the deal by just over three to one, despite opposition by Costain's second biggest shareholder, Kuwait-based Kharafi & Sons, which holds 19 per cent.

But the plan — dubbed by Costain as the only one available for its survival — was backed by other investors, including Raymond International, the group's other major Middle Eastern shareholder.

It means Costain, whose contracts from the Department of Transport currently include the controversial Newbury by-pass, should be able to stay off receivership.

Shares in Costain — worth £14 each five years ago, but suspended at 39p last month when the group detailed its financial predicament — later returned from suspension, to close up 7p at 46p on the news.

Under the plan, Costain's £73.6 million rights issue will go ahead, giving the



Calling Costain... an environmentalist demonstrating against the construction firm's involvement in the Newbury by-pass is moved by police

Malaysian group Intris Ltd a stake of up to 40 per cent in the enlarged Costain. Other creditors — including NatWest — will underwrite another 35 per cent in a debt-for-equity swap.

At the meeting the chief executive, Alan Lovell, endured continual attacks from shareholders, during which he and other board members — including the chairman, Sir Christopher Benson — were called on to resign.

One shareholder, referring to the fact that Costain has paid no dividend since 1992, told the board: "You are the most incompetent directors ever. Why are you lining your pockets with money when we haven't got any dividends?"

Earlier, there were scuffles outside the meeting as police moved on a demonstration by around 50 environmentalists opposed to Costain's involvement at Newbury. Heavily outnumbered by the police, the protesters waved placards attacking Costain's environmental record and complained of their treatment.

"The police say they're here to keep the public order, but they know we're not disorderly," said one woman.

Escom crash hits Thorn EMI share price

Roger Cowe

WARNINGS that Thorn EMI could face a £30 million charge from the collapse of the chain of Escom retail computer stores sent the group's shares tumbling yesterday.

News as the music and rentals group gave details of its demerger plan and announced disappointing first-quarter music sales. Chairman Sir Colin Southgate told shareholders in the demerger document posted yesterday that he had sold 100 businesses in the past 10 years, in the run-up to the final separation of the group, which came together in 1979.

He urged shareholders to vote for the demerger at the general meeting on August 15. The two businesses had "financial and operating characteristics which differ significantly from each other".

The demerger documents show that the EMI Group, with sales last year of £3.5 billion and operating profit of £368 million, would take £131 million of the group's total debts at the end of March, which amounted to £391 million. But EMI will also be liable for this year's dividend and tax payments.

Escom, the German computer-group, acquired 200 former EMI music stores from Thorn EMI in 1994 after the British group decided to pull out of high street retailing of consumer electrical goods. Escom UK went into receivership last week and its German parent also crashed.

Thorn EMI may therefore become liable for the shops if the receivers do not find buyers. Thorn said yesterday it was reviewing the situation "in order to establish what liabilities (if any) might arise pro-

spectively if leaseholds assist EMI UK to revert to Thorn under priority of contract principles".

If the group becomes liable for all 230 shops, the cost would be £30 million. But Colin said he hoped that many of the sites would be sold by the receiver. The liability came with results for the first quarter, which showed a surge in pre-tax profits from £24 million to £108 million. But most of the increase came from profits on the sale of Thorn's 40 per cent interest in its US security business and analysts were disappointed at the underlying operating performance.

"Overall, the group was a little bit below expectations, and the music figure is on the slow side," said Christopher Page, an analyst with Goldman Sachs. Thorn shares fell 42p, 2.4 per cent, to close at 1.65p.

Operating profit rose by 7 per cent to £74 million, on sales up by £28 million to just over £1.1 billion. Sir Colin said the first quarter of the year was not the most important period and that he still expected business to be buoyant for the rest of the year.

He pointed out that currency movements had depressed a much brighter picture once the figures were translated to sterling. In local currency, music sales and profits were up by 5 per cent and 17 per cent respectively. EMI Music's successes in the quarter included Tina Turner's Wildest Dreams album, which has yet to be released in the US, and George Michael's Older, his first album for Virgin since quitting Sony. It has sold more than three million copies outside North America.

Energy shares show brief rise

Simon Beavis
Industrial Editor

SMALL shareholders in British Energy briefly saw their shares go above last week's issue price for the first time yesterday after the company restored two faulty reactors to power. But the troubled stock soon tumbled back to leave investors showing losses once again.

News that British Energy had completed inspections of reactors at Hunterston B, Ayrshire, and Hinkley Point B in Somerset, pushed shares up to 102p against the party paid discounted issue price for small shareholders of 100p. But the shares gave up the early gains and closed last night at 97p, leaving an investor with a minimum allocation of 300 shares nursing a loss of £9.

The closure of the two stations, announced on July 10, sparked a political storm as the news came out just hours after the deadline for the public to apply for shares. The Government fervently de-

nied Labour claims that the news had been withheld until after the deadline passed in what the Opposition described as an "organised deceit".

The Stock Exchange launched an inquiry into the issue, concerned by the fact that investors could have

been given more information about the problems at the reactors, and further problems at Sizewell B in Suffolk, ahead of the sale.

As a result of the technical problems, shares in the company immediately fell at the start of trading last Monday.

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| Belgium 45.95 | Greece 356.50 | Netherlands 2.51 | Spain 168.25 |
| Canada 2.0575 | Hong Kong 71.64 | New Zealand 2.16 | Sweden 10.02 |
| Cyprus 0.59 | India 55.08 | Norway 9.98 | Switzerland 1.819 |
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"SHIFT..."

One worker missing and another 'critical' after sugar plant blast

ONE worker was missing and another was in critical condition after an explosion at a Tate & Lyle sugar factory in Scottsbluff, Nebraska, yesterday.



PHOTOGRAPH BY RICK MYERS

Pay-outs by investors' rescue fund reach peak

Rachel Beard

VICTIMS of failed investment firms were paid a record £25 million last year by the Investors' Compensation Scheme since 1989 to more than £100 million.

pensions-related claims in future as the investigation of mis-selling continues. The pensions industry has not decided how to compensate victims of bad advice whose advisers are unable to pay redress, and Mr Lawson warned that firms must "unambiguously" support whatever funding system was agreed.

Delay builds up gas pressure

Simon Beavis Industrial Editor

THE protracted standoff between British Gas and its regulator erupted into new skirmishes yesterday after Ofgas announced it was delaying the announcement of new price controls until mid-August.

ness was unnecessary and would exacerbate uncertainty among shareholders and staff. The two sides have been engaged in a hostile battle since Clare Spottiswoode, the director general of Ofgas, announced in May outline proposals to cut TransCo's prices by between 20 and 28 per cent from next year.

that they have come close to settling their difference and it remains likely that the dispute will eventually be referred to the Monopolies Commission for resolution.

price review. The bank will be helping Ofgas assess the company's claims that it will be forced to make draconian cuts in its dividend payments if the watchdog refuses to water down her proposals.

Some observers believe the delays are an indication that Ofgas is preparing to soften its price proposals for what is the most lucrative part of the British Gas empire.

will reduce them still further and impose a one off cut as low as 16 per cent, giving way to anxious lobbying by big City institutions.

BSkyB set to escape monopoly inquiry over cable TV charges

Lisa Buckingham

SATELLITE TV group BSKyB is understood to have escaped a Monopolies Commission inquiry into the terms on which it supplies programmes to cable companies.

part of 18 months, and is keen to remove the doubts which have clouded investor sentiment about its future.

complaint that BSKyB's terms on programme supply mean it is hard for them to make an adequate return and to be competitive with Sky in consumers' eyes.

The cable companies found an ally in the telecoms regulator Ofcom, whose case to the OFT argued that BSKyB's pricing policies were holding back the development of cable TV in Britain.

News in brief

Carlton snaps up Cinema Media stake

CARLTON Communications, the media group that owns the London weekday broadcaster Carlton and Central TV, is paying £35.5 million to purchase an 80 per cent stake of the US cinema advertising market.

Shorter crash barrier

THE New York Stock Exchange will shut down for half an hour instead of an hour if the Dow Jones industrial average slumps 250 points in the first important change to the circuit breakers introduced after the 1987 crash.

Reckitt raises £48m

RECKITT & Colman has raised a further £48 million from the latest in a string of asset sales that have brought in a total of £400 million.

BAA takes control

BAA yesterday announced it was taking full control of Heathrow Express, the planned rail link between central London and Heathrow Airport.

CAA safety review to tighten up loopholes in aircraft vetting rules

Keith Harper Transport Editor

TOUGHER controls on foreign-registered aircraft that land in Britain without being properly vetted are to be considered by the Government in a review it is conducting with the Civil Aviation Authority.

terday there was further scope for action, and said it was on a list of priorities the CAA would be pursuing over the next few months.

thousands of tourists unable to fly out or return from the Mediterranean and Canary Islands. The CAA said the cost of reimbursing customers was £3 million and it had been forced to apply to the Government for permission to borrow up to a further £11 million.

airline has agreed to put some of the money on hold. Mr Kinnock yesterday confirmed he had reached agreement with the French government over the final £75 billion instalment of a package approved two years ago by his predecessor, Marcelino Oreja.

101 Golden Rules for Investors

Expect more than more a scribbled note on the back of an envelope as proof of your investment. Don't exaggerate your salary, pretend you understand things you don't, or lie about your age.

Beware of the ostrich, avoid the fluid

It's official: the entrepreneurial, risk-it-all society mothered by Mrs Thatcher has come to an end. Enter, in its place, the cautious, sensible world of the 1990s.

Yesterday the Investors' Compensation Scheme (ICS) unveiled "101 golden rules" for investors, designed to stop money being lost. (The Scheme's money, that is. Every time an authorised investment fund goes belly-up, the ICS has to cough up as much as £48,000 to each punter.)

So if you put your money into any of these, no compensation can be paid. Bad news for ostrich-egg farming — one of the growth areas of the future. Other parts of the report, on the other hand, seem to be encouraging grandmothers to suck eggs.

Advertisement for Mercury's fast data network. Features a cartoon character and the text: "...UP A GEAR." "is your company on Mercury's fast data network?"

Handwritten Arabic text at the bottom right of the page.

OLYMPIC GAMES

There is as yet no women's NBA and no basketball millionaires, but we may not have long to wait after Atlanta

Bright Dawn for women's game

Basketball
Richard Williams

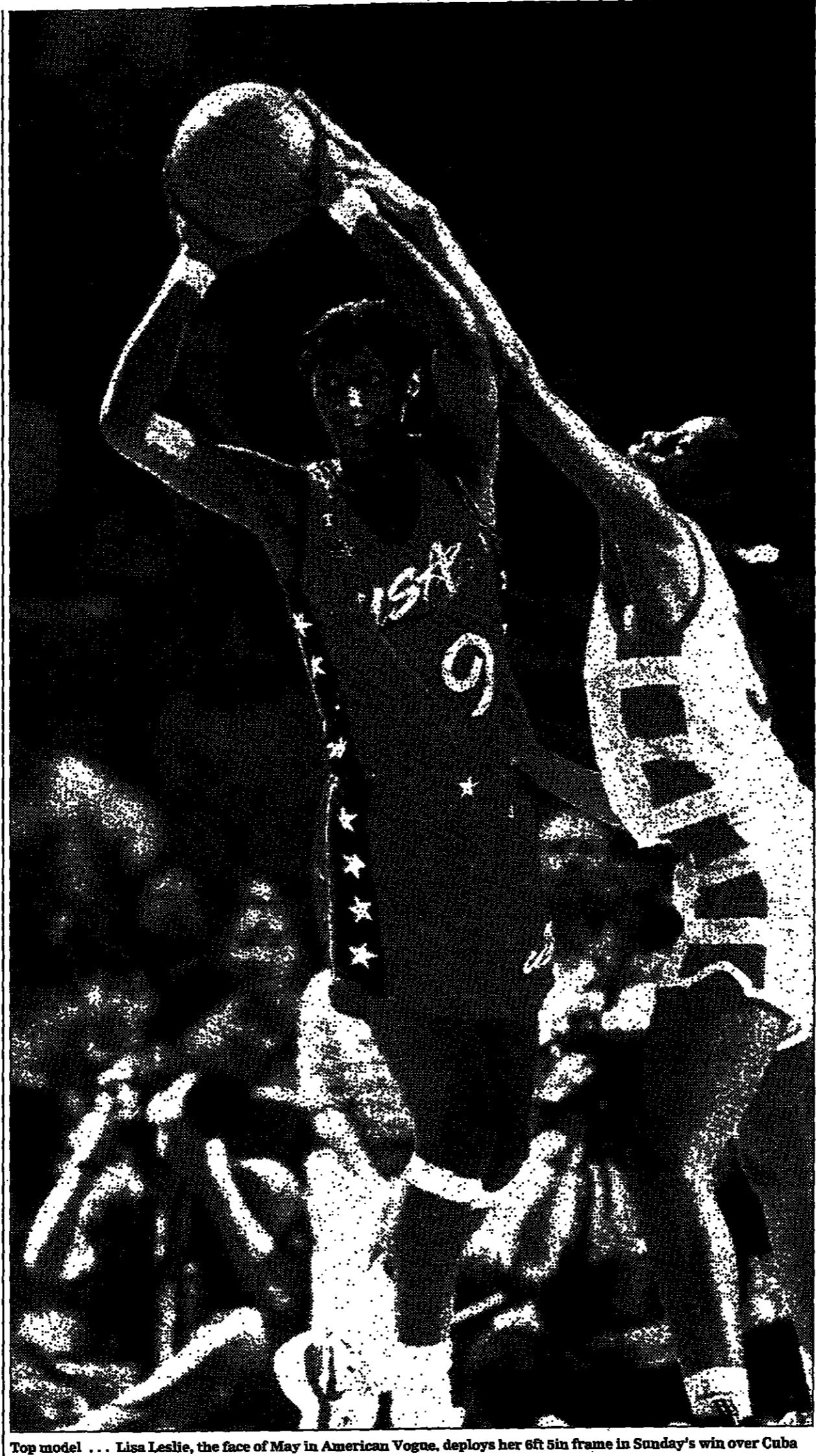
HERE IS a thing that Dawn Staley does with a basketball. A thing that reminds you why it is worth standing in line for...

Hollywood, I'm inner city," she said. "I'm a product of inner-city life. I grew up playing with guys, and some of that is going to rub off on you..."

STALEY was in junior high school when she got a letter ball a big boost, justifying her claim to a share in the Dream Team franchise.

For Leslie is your average 6ft 5in Ethiopian princess, with a willow frame and face of refined beauty.

Yet she is a former national college player of the year, and against Cuba she was the team's top scorer, with 24 points and seven rebounds.



Top model... Lisa Leslie, the face of May in American Vogue, deploys her 6ft 5in frame in Sunday's win over Cuba

Three face prompt expulsion

Drugs
Martin Palmer

AFTER only four days of Olympic action in Atlanta the organisers are fighting a rearguard battle to keep the Games drug-free.

Just before the games Atlanta officials learned that the Australian sprinter Dean Capobianco and Italian high jumper Antonella Bevilacqua had failed drug tests.

The cases of Capobianco, who blames faulty testing, and Bevilacqua, who is appealing for leniency, will be dealt with by the International Amateur Athletic Federation at a council meeting in Atlanta on Thursday.

Capobianco tested positive for the anabolic steroid stanozolol at a meeting in the Dutch town of Hengelo in May, but an Australian tribunal did not impose the mandatory four-year suspension because of "serious flaws in the testing procedure".

Bevilacqua, one of the world's top six high-jumpers on this year's form, tested positive twice for ephedrine last May, but the Italian federation accepted her explanation that she had taken the banned stimulant by mistake and waived their automatic three-month suspension.

IAAF officials are unhappy with both decisions. They do not accept the Australian argument that Capobianco's urine samples could have been sabotaged, and point out that if these athletes were allowed to compete and then lost their appeal hearings the Olympic results would have to be changed retrospectively.

Britain's table tennis manager Alan Ransome, the British Olympic Association and its sponsor Delta Airlines have combined to draw up a schedule which should bring the Olympic team to Hong Kong, Singapore and Frankfurt.

Matt Ryan, who won individual and team gold medals for Australia at Barcelona, has been forced to withdraw from the three-day event in Atlanta because his horse Fitzinger is lame.

Herbert made to order for piece of eight
Rowing
Christopher Dodd

LASTING image of the Barcelona Olympics was Garry Herbert, cox to the Scobie brothers, coxing on television as the national anthem was played at the medal ceremony.

The eight is now the only Olympic boat that carries a cox. In one of only 10 people who can compete in the Olympics in this seat, Herbert says, "I want it just as much as the guys who go out there in the winter slugging up and down the Henley Reach."

The second qualifying place for Sunday's final went to the United States, coached by Steven Rodgers, and crewed by Mike Spracklen. They have come good after a poor season and beat the Germans by a 1.5sec for the qualifying place.

The British women's eight had a rotten row, summarised by Amnermar Stapleton in the row seat. "We had a crap start, got dumped, and never got into a rhythm," says the Romanian, world-record holders, won the race, with the world champions, the United States, losing the final qualifying place in the other heat to Belarus.

Nick Strong and Andy Sinton led their heat of eight lightweight doubles at 500 metres but finished last. Sinton complained about the wash from the official motor boats that was making life difficult in the outside lanes.

Sunday's results

Table with 2 columns: Sport and Results. Includes Baseball, Basketball, Boxing, and Wrestling results.

Women's half heavyweight

Table with 2 columns: Name and Result. Lists winners and losers in various weight classes.

Shooting

Table with 2 columns: Name and Result. Lists winners in trap, pistol, and rifle events.

Women's 10m air pistol

Table with 2 columns: Name and Result. Lists winners in 10m air pistol events.

Rowing

Table with 2 columns: Name and Result. Lists winners in various rowing events.

Women's 200m freestyle

Table with 2 columns: Name and Result. Lists winners in 200m freestyle events.

Women's 4x200m freestyle relay

Table with 2 columns: Name and Result. Lists winners in 4x200m freestyle relay events.

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Sunday 11.30am to 1.30pm

Today in Atlanta

Table with 2 columns: Sport and Events. Lists events for today and tomorrow.

Table with 2 columns: Medal Tally and Medalists. Lists medal counts and names for various sports.

OLYMPIC GAMES: All Atlanta falls for the women's own Dream Team, page 14
RUGBY UNION: Twickenham must consider break with Sky, page 13

SportsGuardian

ATLANTA'S TRANSPORT PROBLEMS REACHING CRISIS POINT

Redgrave leads Village walk-out

Survival
John Duncan

STEVEN Redgrave backed up his harsh criticisms of the Games organisation with action yesterday when he and other members of the British rowing team walked out of the Olympic Village in central Atlanta, frustrated at the transport system and overcrowding.

Their colleagues on the British women's rowing team also made the news when they hijacked a bus to get to their Lake Lanier venue on time. The entire Latvian team has also moved out because of overcrowding and noise.

Atlanta's much-vaunted computerised results system, a multi-million dollar collaboration between a group of major Olympic sponsors, was still a shambles yesterday. Results were severely delayed and absurdities such as three-round boxing bouts going into a fourth round were being broadcast as fact.



Stroking up the heat... Ireland's golden girl Michelle Smith makes waves after being cleared to swim in the 400 metres freestyle when US protests were rejected. DENIS PAQUIN

Irish turn on American 'bullies'

Swimming
David Hopps

IF President Clinton covets the Irish-American vote in his re-election campaign, then his foreign policy advisers should tell him to stay clear of Atlanta where the blood brothers are engaged in a feud over the Games' most controversial champion.

up and trying to smash us down. They have left a lot of bad blood between us. They are jealous that a little country like Ireland has taken a gold medal off them. The Americans did everything they could to have Michelle Smith thrown out of the 400 freestyle when it is clear that it was an Olympic organisational mistake. It is scandalous.

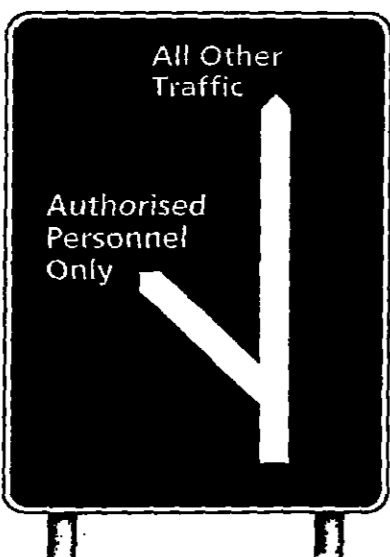
countries in contention for Olympic gold. The German Kerstin Kielgass pipped Smith by a hundredth of a second as the fastest qualifier, with the Netherlands' Kirstin Vlieghe close behind.

deadline for competitors was the opening day, July 20, and that Smith's late entry for the 400m freestyle — a change of heart after a stunning swim in a Florida meet — was cleared on July 17. Rival countries state that the closing date was July 5.

Evans, was unrepentant, describing the IOC intervention as "a disgusting example of politics in sport".

"The entry of an athlete lies solely with the Olympic organisers, not with the swimming federation," Sherlock responded. "Only when it became clear that Michelle Smith was a medal prospect did the Americans take steps to have her removed."

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Shearer back to settle his future with Rovers

Russell Thomas

ALAN SHEARER will attempt to resolve his much publicised future when he meets Blackburn's chairman Robert Coar on Friday after persistent speculation that he is about to leave Ewood Park in a British record deal.

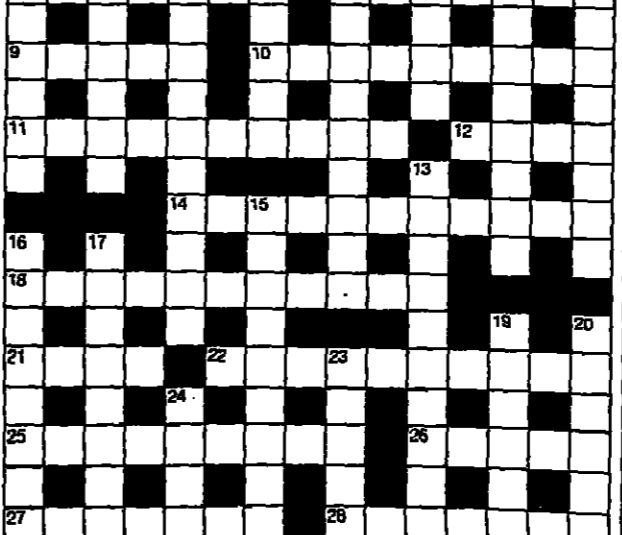
will doubtless have a chat with the chairman Robert Coar when I return to training at the end of the week to find out the reality behind the headlines.

guson said: "Marco comes to us very highly recommended and I'm sure he will develop over the next couple of years. It is very much a case of wait and see, but the boy will be given every chance."

Alan Smithee is not a man of discerning taste, attaching himself to titles like Ghost Fever, Appointment With Fear, The Bloodsucking Pharaohs Of Pittsburgh, even a US-New Zealand co-production called The Shrimp On The Barbie.

Guardian Crossword No 20,712

Set by Plodge

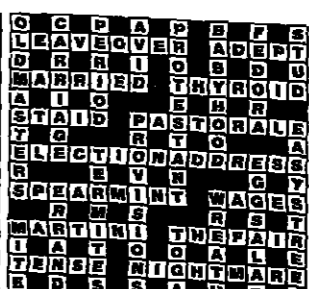


Across

- 1 Running after one of the 11, alien with a torch... (7)
- 5... had problems on foot... The Spanish 11 noisily tailed Black... (7)
- 9... the first European to take steps to do a bolt (5)
- 10 Promoters of pink paper penned by push pinners? (9)
- 11 Great Britain elevates processed food suppliers (10)
- 12 Though far from toothless, he's said to be a poor old thing (4)
- 14 When the dog barks loudly, reduce one of the 11 (11)
- 18 Contrived to burn Queen Anne's 11 (6,5)
- 21 Run through some of the Norse epics (4)
- 22 In pursuit of some culture one gasps for 11 (10)
- 25 One of the 11 found at an Inn back in Ulster? (9)

Down

- 1 About to quit Split? (5)
- 2 Quite upset, one expressed aversion... (5)
- 3... to accept less sculpture for exhibitions (10)
- 4 Cadge a lift with Tom (5)
- 5 Everyone in Ireland's taken to the graduate tripper (8)
- 6 Fellow follower turned up no great shakes (4)
- 7 For some, 12 holds an alternative (3,2,3)
- 8 Casement's falling, so Chard's demented (4-4)
- 13 Something in the pan to



CROSSWORD SOLUTION 20,711

- worry Private Walker, perhaps? (5,5)
- 15 States association counter to circus opening (9)
- 16 Having carried off a First, Bill produced some wine (8)
- 17 "Unman" in the French covers draught complaint (8)
- 19 The draught of two boats? (5)
- 20 A sibilant sigh of Spanish words said sotto-voce... (6)
- 23... which pointlessly poisoned perceptions (5)
- 24 Will house agent hold Masons wee hand? (4)

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